



## WE SALUTE YOU

Obama marks Iraq war's end with a salute to troops

President Barack Obama speaks to troops at Fort Bragg, N.C., Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011. President Obama on Wednesday saluted troops returning from Iraq, asserting that the nearly nine-year conflict was ending honorably, "not with a final battle, but with a final march toward home."

(AP Photo/Gerry Broome)  
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Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. leaves a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Democrats may jettison their demand for higher taxes on millionaires as part of legislation to extend Social Security tax cuts for most Americans, officials said Wednesday as President Barack Obama and Congress struggled to clear critical year-end bills without triggering a partial government shutdown.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

## Trying to Avoid The Shutdown

By DAVID ESPO

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Democrats may jettison their demand for higher taxes on millionaires as part of legislation to extend Social Security tax cuts for most Americans, officials said Wednesday as President Barack Obama and Congress struggled to clear critical year-end bills without triggering a partial government shutdown.

Republicans, too, signaled an eagerness to avoid gridlock and adjourn for the holidays. With a massive, \$1 trillion funding bill blocked by Democrats, GOP lawmakers and aides floated the possibility of a backup measure to keep the government in operation for several days after the money runs out Friday night.

It all comes at the close of a year of divided government — with a tea party-flavored majority in the House and Obama's allies in the Senate — that has veered from near-catastrophe to last-minute compromise repeatedly since last January.

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# Obama marks Iraq war's end with a salute to troops

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ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

**FORT BRAGG, North Carolina (AP)** — President Barack Obama on Wednesday saluted troops returning from Iraq, asserting that the nearly nine-year con-

Obama has pledged the U.S. will continue civilian assistance for Iraq as it faces an uncertain future in a volatile region of the world. Even as majorities in the U.S. public favor ending the war, some Republicans have criticized the withdrawal, arguing that Obama is leaving behind

it for some time now," he said. "But still, there is something profound about the end of a war that has lasted so long." Obama noted the early battles that defeated and deposed Saddam Hussein and what he called "the grind of insurgency" — roadside bombs, snipers



**President Barack Obama greets members of the military at Fort Bragg, N.C., Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011. President Barack Obama on Wednesday saluted troops returning from Iraq, asserting that the nearly nine-year conflict was ending honorably, "not with a final battle, but with a final march toward home."**

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

flict was ending honorably, "not with a final battle, but with a final march toward home."

Marking the conclusion of the war at a military base that's seen more than 200 deaths from fighting in Iraq, Obama never tried to declare victory.

It was a war that he opposed from the start, inherited as president and is now bringing to a close, leaving behind an Iraq still struggling.

But he sought to pronounce a noble end to a fight that has cost nearly 4,500 American lives and more than 100,000 Iraqi lives.

"The war in Iraq will soon belong to history, and your service belongs to the ages," he said, applauding their "extraordinary achievement."

All U.S. troops are to be out of Iraq Dec. 31, though

an unstable Iraq that could hurt U.S. interests and fall subject to influence from neighboring Iran.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Obama's one-time rival for the presidency, issued a particularly harsh verdict on his handling of Iraq.

"I believe that history will judge this president's leadership with the scorn and disdain it deserves," McCain said on the Senate floor. Obama, appearing with first lady Michelle Obama, highlighted the human side of the war, reflecting on the bravery and sacrifices of U.S. forces now on their way back home. He recalled the start of the war, a time when he was only an Illinois state senator and many of the warriors before him were in grade school.

"We knew this day would come. We have known

and suicide attacks.

"Your will proved stronger than the terror of those who tried to break it," he said.

Upon his arrival at Fort Bragg, Obama met with five enlisted service members who had recently returned from combat. He also met with the family of a soldier killed in Iraq who was the most recent, and potentially final, U.S. fatality of the war.

Obama's approval rating on handling the situation in Iraq has been above 50 percent since last fall, and in a new Associated Press-GfK poll, has ticked up four points since October to 55 percent. Among independents, his approval rating tops 50 percent for the first time since this spring.

With the economy foremost on people's minds, fewer now consider the war a top issue. □



**Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, center, smiles after speaking to the media at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, as Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., right, and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., watch. Democrats may jettison their demand for higher taxes on millionaires as part of legislation to extend Social Security tax cuts for most Americans, officials said Wednesday as President Barack Obama and Congress struggled to clear critical year-end bills without triggering a partial government shutdown.**

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

## Dems may drop tax in year-end battle

Continued from Front Page

The rhetoric Wednesday was biting at times.

"We have fiddled all year long, all year," the Republican leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, complained in a less-than-harmonious exchange on the Senate floor with Majority Leader Harry Reid. McConnell accused Democrats of "routinely setting up votes designed to divide us ... to give the president a talking point out on the campaign trail."

Reid shot back that McConnell had long ago declared Obama's defeat to be his top priority. And he warned that unless Republicans show a willingness to bend, the country faces a government shutdown "that will be just as unpopular" as the two that occurred when Newt Gingrich was House speaker more than a decade ago. It was a reminder — as if McConnell and current Speaker John Boehner of Ohio needed one — of the political debacle that ensued for Republicans when Gingrich was outmaneuvered in a showdown with former President Bill Clinton. At issue now are three year-end bills that Obama and leaders in both parties in Congress say they

want. One would extend expiring Social Security payroll tax cuts and benefits for the long-term unemployed, provisions at the heart of Obama's jobs program. Another is the \$1 trillion spending measure that would lock in cuts that Republicans won earlier in the year. The third measure is a \$662 billion defense bill setting policy for military personnel, weapons systems and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus national security programs in the Energy Department.

After a two-day silence, the White House said Obama would sign the measure despite initial concern over a provision requiring the military to take custody of any suspect deemed to be a member of al-Qaida or its affiliates and involved in plotting or committing attacks on the United States. U.S. citizens would be exempt.

Reid and other top Democratic senators met with Obama at the White House at mid-afternoon, and congressional aides said the topic was the end-of-year legislation.

Democrats have made the proposed millionaires' tax central to their plan for the payroll tax cut extension, and officials stressed no decision had been made on whether to drop it. □



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# Republican candidates get Obama policy wrong

PETE YOST

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Republican presidential candidates have claimed that the Obama administration is cleansing government files of references to radical Islam.

The assertion is so juicy that politicians keep repeating it, even though it is a wild exaggeration.

The latest candidate to run with the story is former Sen. Rick Santorum, who told a crowd in Des Moines, Iowa, that the president "actually ordered all references to Islam and Muslim sanitized out of our national security documents."

And during the weekend, the front-runner, Newt Gingrich, told a veterans' forum in Des Moines that the administration has "issued instructions, for example, that in developing training papers on terrorism that no mention should be made of radical Islam."

Rep. Michele Bachmann paved the way on Oct. 28, when she told 75 Republican faithful in Iowa that "Obama is allowing terror suspect groups to write the FBI's terror training manual." So where is this coming from? Last September, the online publication Wired.com broke a story that an FBI analyst had given a lecture to bureau trainees that was critical of Islam. The publication followed up, disclosing that the same analyst had given a similar lecture to an FBI-sponsored event in New York City. The FBI immediately ordered a comprehensive review of

all the materials it uses to train its agents.

It would be hard to overstate the importance the FBI attaches to help from the Muslim community in the bureau's terrorism investigations in the United States, a point that FBI Director Robert Mueller drove home in an appearance Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"We have met with various representatives of the Muslim community" in the aftermath of the inappropriate FBI training to convey just how seriously the bureau takes the matter, said Mueller.

In an effort to ensure that all of its training materials are appropriate, Mueller said, the bureau assembled a five-member panel of experts on Islam — two people from inside the FBI and three outside scholars — from Yale, Princeton and Johns Hopkins University.

The review found a very small percentage of material that was either inappropriate or inaccurate or both, and the bureau immediately got rid of it, said a bureau official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to be able to discuss the internal handling of the issue.

"I believe our relationship with the Muslim community is very good," said Mueller. The director told Sen. Al Franken, a Democrat, that "we are addressing" the problem and that "it's an anomaly."

A few snippets of the former FBI analyst's assertions



**A protestor is removed from the auditorium as Republican presidential candidate, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich spoke during a discussion about brain science research, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011, at the University of Iowa College of Public Health in Iowa City, Iowa. Republican presidential candidates have claimed that the Obama administration is cleansing government files of references to radical Islam.**

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

reflect the kind of information the bureau regards as inappropriate.

The materials for the FBI analyst's instructional presentation said that mainstream American Muslims are likely to be terrorist sympathizers, that the Prophet Muhammad was a cult leader and that the Islamic practice of giving charity is no more than a funding mechanism for combat.

A video of the New York City lecture included a reference to "an Islamic motivation" for violent acts of terrorism. The analyst no longer teaches training classes. □

## House backs tough sanctions on Iran

DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The House of Representatives endorsed harsher sanctions against Iran on Wednesday as it seeks to weaken Tehran economically and derail its suspected pursuit of nuclear weapons. The overwhelming votes of 410-11 and 418-2 were largely symbolic, however, as the Senate was not expected to act on the legislation in the few remaining days of the congressional session. Separately, Congress was poised to back a sweeping defense bill that already included crippling sanctions on foreign financial institutions that do business with Iran's Central Bank, a provision that the Senate backed unanimously last week. Determined to show their hawkish stand on Iran

and pro-Israel credentials, House lawmakers voted for two bills that would strengthen current sanctions while expanding the list of companies and individuals subject to penalties. The legislation builds on sanctions that Congress overwhelmingly passed, and President Barack Obama signed, last year. Those penalties targeted exports of gasoline and other refined petroleum products to Iran and banned U.S. banks from doing business with foreign banks that provide services to Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

The United Nations and the European Union also have imposed sanctions against Iran. "Our fundamental strategic objective must be to stop Iran before it obtains nuclear weapons capabilities and to compel it to per-

manently dismantle its pursuit of such weapons," said Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The United States has tried repeatedly to coax Iran into international negotiations with the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany over its nuclear program. Iran contends that its program is designed to generate electricity, not build weapons.

Among the new provisions, the House bills would restrict foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies from doing business with Iran. Bartering is included among the activities that could be sanctioned, and Americans would be prohibited from conducting commercial or financial transactions with the Revolutionary Guard. □



# American towns fight against gas drillers

**SABRINA TAVERNISE**  
© 2011 New York Times

**SOUTH FAYETTE, Pa.** — As energy companies move to drill in densely populated areas from Pennsylvania to Texas, battles are breaking out over who will have the final say in managing the shale gas boom.

The fight, which pits towns and cities against energy companies and states eager for growth, has raised a fundamental question about the role of local government: How much authority should communities have over the use of their land?

The battle is playing out in Pennsylvania as the Republican-controlled Legislature considers bills that would in their current form sharply limit a community's right to control where gas companies can operate on private property. Critics say the final bill could vastly weaken local zoning powers and give industry the upper hand in exchange for a tax, which cash-strapped municipalities badly need. The legislation has struck a nerve in a state where land control has long been considered quintessentially local.

"I'm a conservative Republican, and this goes against all my principles," said Brian Coppola, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Robinson Township. The pending legislation, he said, "is an enormous land grab on the part of the industry. Our property rights are being trampled."

Coppola noted a hillside in town that began to crack and slide under the weight of a new shale gas processing plant, which he contends was built without a permit. The town's zoning powers allowed him, through a court, to compel the company to follow town regulations and allow town inspectors access to the site. The site was eventually stabilized. Losing those powers would leave local officials out of the equation, he said, even though they are responsible for protecting the health and safety of their citizens.

"I'm an unpaid, part-time elected official, and it's been a nightmare," he said. "The state is not capable of monitoring even the most basic parts of this industry."

Local governments argue that drilling is an industrial activity, just like a gas station or a cement factory, that should be subject to zoning. Dozens of towns, cities and counties across the country have enacted rules on noise, lighting and the distance from homes and, in some cases, outright bans. In New York alone, there have been at least 70 such actions. Companies say the rush to regulate has produced an overly burdensome set of demands that is denting their potential when the economy desperately needs a boost.

"It's like having to get a different driver's license in every town," said Matt Pitzarella, a spokesman for Range Resources, a Texas drilling company that is active here.

The flurry of local rules comes as the federal government inches forward on a national study of hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, the process used to extract previously inaccessible natural gas from shale deep underground. The study is expected to shape the future of the industry, but progress has been slow. In the meantime, courts have become the next frontier.

In New York in September, a Denver exploration company sued Dryden, a town near Ithaca, over a drilling ban. In Colorado, Gunnison County, which contains a ski resort, is fighting a drilling company's court challenge to its zoning. In Texas, a restrictive gas drilling ordinance adopted by an affluent suburb of Dallas called Flower Mound has drawn several lawsuits alleging it amounts to an unconstitutional seizure of mineral rights.

Jordan Yeager, a Pennsylvania lawyer who represents municipalities, said litigation brought by gas companies had a chilling



**Keith McDonough on his property, which is adjacent to a hill where a gas drilling site was to be placed, in South Fayette, Pa., Nov. 14, 2011. As energy companies move to drill in densely populated areas from Pennsylvania to Texas, battles are breaking out over who will have the final say in managing the natural gas boom.**

(Jeff Swensen/The New York Times)

affect, discouraging towns and cities from enacting regulations because they can't afford to defend them in court.

Supporters of the Pennsylvania legislation argue that

it would hold the industry to higher, more uniform environmental standards in addition to charging them fees.

"We substantially raised the bar of what we expect

from natural gas operators," said Rep. Matthew Baker, a Republican who helped shape the legislation.

Emily A. Collins, a professor of environmental and oil and gas law at the University of Pittsburgh, said parts of the legislation would help the environment — for example, expanding the distance in which a driller could be presumed responsible for replacing a tainted water supply.

She said the legislation seemed to anticipate litigation, calling for special judges to be added to the state Commonwealth Court, presumably to handle new flows of cases against local governments. Companies have been ramping up shale gas drilling operations during the past decade in states like Texas and Colorado, and during the last several years in Pennsylvania, where the giant Marcellus Shale formation has set off a frenzy of activity. □

## A hotel hairstylist grooms hopefuls



**Cathy Jorgensen, who has aided many ailing political hairdos, at her salon in the Marriott Des Moines Downtown in Iowa, Dec. 11, 2011. The hotel hairstylist has probably done as much as any political consultant to help presidential candidates and their families look good.**

(Eric Thayer/The New York Times)

**SUSAN SAULNY**

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**DES MOINES, Iowa** — It was just moments before Mitt Romney had to be camera-ready, rushing from the Marriott Hotel here to one of the first nationally televised Republican presidential debates of the political season. And this is precisely when his hair decided not to behave.

Romney, ever well coiffed, had an unusually stubborn cowlick that had refused to lay flat despite serious coaxing over more than a few minutes in his room. Rushing through the lobby, he sought emergency help from an expert who's probably done as much as any political consultant to help candidates and their families look good over the

years: Cathy Jorgensen, the hotel hairstylist.

When Romney asked if she could fix his wayward strands, the answer, of course, was yes. With a quick snip and some gel, he was all good again. "Took care of that!" said Jorgensen, an Iowa native whose unpretentious 25-year-old salon in the hotel is, at least every four years, at the center of the political universe.

As a result, Jorgensen, a chipper 61-year-old grandmother, has become something of a political operative herself. She's a local cosmetology school graduate who has been vetted by the Secret Service and had her fingers in some of the most iconic hairdos in presidential history. Recall Barbara Bush's snow-white halo? Jorgensen hit it with a curling iron back in the 1980s. Last week, in the run-up to the Iowa caucuses, the small beauty shop (it only has two shampoo bowls) was abuzz. □



# Throng of Occupy protesters appear in NY courts

**BEN DOBBIN**

**JENNIFER PELTZ**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York courtrooms hundreds of miles (kilometers) apart have been busy with the aftermath of arrests from Occupy Wall Street-related protests. Nearly 200 people arrested during demonstrations appeared Wednesday to answer charges stemming from an October march on the Brooklyn Bridge and a demonstra-

tion in a Rochester park. Some 161 people were arraigned in a Manhattan court. Nearly 60 percent of them took a judge's offer to get their cases dismissed if they avoid rearrest for six months. The remainder are headed toward trial. Most were among the more than 700 arrested in the Oct. 1 march that marked the biggest mass arrest of the movement so far. Another 15 people didn't show up for court. Two



Hero Vincent, second from right, an early protester in the Occupy Wall Street movement, listens as Judith Anderson, left, a lawyer working with the National Lawyers Guild, records information about him as he stands on line outside Manhattan Criminal Court on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011 in New York. Protesters are answering summons stemming from their mass arrest during a march across the Brooklyn Bridge last October.

(AP Photo/Bebet Matthews)

more had their cases postponed to Thursday. In Rochester, 28 Occupy supporters asked a court to dismiss charges they violated a nighttime curfew at a park. A judge didn't immediately decide. Another hearing is set for Jan. 12. Over the nearly three months since the Occupy movement began, New York City police have arrested more than 1,200 people in connection with the demonstration. Besides those arraigned Wednesday, about 170 more have court dates later this week. Authorities across the U.S. have moved to shut down Occupy camps in several cities, including New York. □

## Abuse lawsuit against Rumsfeld, Gates tossed

**MATTHEW BARAKAT**

**Associated Press**

**McLEAN, Virginia (AP)** — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed against former defense secretaries Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates by 28 military members and veterans who said they were victims of sexual assault.

The suit, filed earlier this year in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, alleged Rumsfeld and Gates fostered a culture that allowed rapists to thrive and punished assault victims for filing complaints against their attackers.

But in a ruling issued Friday, Judge Liam O'Grady said the judiciary should not intervene in matters involving military discipline and dismissed the case, even though he called the victims' allegations troubling. The plaintiffs' attorney, Susan Burke, did not immediately respond to an e-mail Wednesday asking whether she would appeal.

In one example, an Army Reservist said two male colleagues raped her in Iraq and videotaped the attack. She complained to authorities but says charges weren't filed because the commander did not think she acted like a rape victim.

One of the plaintiffs, Rebekah Havrilla, said in response to the ruling, "It is now practically impossible to get the judicial system to provide any remedy for those that have been victimized by the inadequate

military system."

Havrilla, an Army sergeant from 2004 to 2009, was deployed to Afghanistan. In the lawsuit, she alleged that a colleague raped her and photographed the attack. When she sought counsel from the military chaplain, he told her it must have been God's will for her to be raped and recommended more frequent church attendance. The attack occurred at a time when she was subjected to routine harassment from her supervisor, who slapped her on the bottom and kissed and bit her on the back of the neck, according to the suit.

Havrilla is now a staff member for the Service Women's Action Network, which was founded in 2007 by female veterans to advocate for victims of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military. Although The Associated Press normally does not identify the victims of sexual assault, Havrilla agreed to allow her name to be used. Greg Jacob, the network's policy director, called the judge's ruling unacceptable and "a tragic comment on the issue of military sexual assault."

Statistics collected by the Pentagon show more than 3,000 reports of sexual abuse in the military in fiscal year 2010, but only 529 went to trial. The Pentagon estimates that the vast majority of assaults go unreported altogether. □



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	<p><b>Friday Seafood Night</b></p> <p>Soup of the Night: Seafood Chowder              Chef's Carving: Salmon Wellington, in Puff Pastry with White Fish Mousse &amp; Spinach, Lemon Caper Sauce              Selected Entrees: Grouper Fillet Creole • Seafood Newburg • Garlic Shrimp • Chicken Curry              Side Dishes: Jasmine Rice • Penne Pasta in Clam Sauce • Vegetable Medley • Fried Plantain</p>
	<p><b>Saturday Prime Rib Night</b></p> <p>Soup of the Night: Onion Soup              Chef Carved: Slow Roasted, USA Prime Rib, au Jus              Selected Entrees: Roasted Lamb Garlic &amp; Herb • Stirfried Chicken • Cajun Fish Fillet, Cilantro Sauce              Side Dishes: Baked Potatoes with Condiment • Macaroni &amp; Cheese • Sautéed Green Beans &amp; Mushrooms • Stuffed Tomatoes</p>

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## NYC-paid investigators buy guns online across U.S.

By COLLEEN LONG and SAMANTHA GROSS  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — A city investigation caught on-line gun sellers around the country illegally handing over assault weapons to people who said they couldn't pass a background check, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Wednesday, just days after a police officer was shot to death with an illegal gun. Peddlers who list their guns on websites such as Craigslist aren't required to conduct a background check before selling a gun, but it's against federal law for



Lamont Pride, center, stands at his arraignment for the shooting and death of a New York Police Department officer, Peter Figoski, 47, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Pride was already wanted in a previous, non-fatal shooting in North Carolina but remained on the streets because arrest warrants didn't require his return there.

them to sell to someone they believe wouldn't pass such a check. Among the weapons purchased in the sting was a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun identical to the model police say was used to kill Officer Peter Figoski when he responded to a 911 call about a home invasion Monday. The \$290,000 effort — the latest in a series of city-sponsored sting operations targeting out-of-state illegal gun sales — took private investigators hired by the city far beyond New York's borders. But Bloomberg said Wednesday that the impact of such illegal

sales makes them very much the city's business. The city estimates that 85 percent of guns used in crimes here come from out of state. "Peter Figoski was our police officer. We didn't overstep anything," the mayor said at a City Hall news conference. "We obeyed the federal laws. We were very careful. ... We did not want to jeopardize any future prosecution." Bloomberg said the city had submitted the results of its inquiry to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which didn't immediately return a message seeking comment Wednesday. The private investigators used Craigslist and other websites to contact 125 online gun sellers in 14 states. Of those, 77 agreed to sell to buyers who said they couldn't pass a background check. The investigators followed through and completed five of the purchases in-person, at locations in Ohio.

The mayor called on the websites to institute checks to discourage illegal sales — for example, by requiring sellers and buyers to provide identification. Craigslist doesn't officially allow the listing of guns on its pages, but the investigation found that gun sellers were openly using its pages and frequently flouting the law. Zachariah Terhark, the owner of gunlistings.org, said his site asks users to report illegal activity to the ATF and removes postings that have been flagged by users.

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# Accountant in US fraud gets 14 months in prison

**MICHAEL MELIA**  
**Associated Press**  
**HARTFORD, Connecticut**  
**(AP)** — A Venezuelan accountant was sentenced Wednesday to 14 months in federal prison for helping to cover up a Connecticut-based pyramid scheme involving hundreds of millions of dollars from a pension fund for Venezuela's state oil workers. Juan Carlos Guillen Zerpa

admitted that he was paid to falsify a document on behalf of Francisco Illarramendi, a Venezuelan-American financier who used unregistered hedge funds in Stamford, Connecticut, as cover for one of the biggest frauds in state history. A co-conspirator referred Illarramendi to the defendant less than a year before he was arrested in March, and investigators concluded

ed Guillen played only a peripheral role in the fraud. Guillen told FBI agents he was "stupid" to prepare the fake document and, despite a willingness to cooperate with authorities, he was unable to provide substantial assistance, according to prosecutors' sentencing memo. Illarramendi, who is currently under home confinement in New Canaan, Connecticut, pleaded guilty in March to charges including fraud and conspiracy to obstruct justice. He faces up to 70 years in prison at sentencing. He was accused of transferring money among investment accounts without telling clients to cover up huge financial losses and

then falsifying documents to deceive investors, creditors and investigators. Illarramendi served as an adviser to Venezuela's government until 2004 and most of the money involved in his scheme came from the pension fund of state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA. Guillen, who was the managing partner of a Venezuelan accounting firm, has been under home confinement in Miami. He pleaded guilty in May to conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He expected to receive as much as \$1 million for agreeing to sign a fabricat-

ed letter indicating falsely that one of the funds had made \$275 million in outstanding loans to Venezuelan companies, prosecutors said. A payment of \$250,000 for Guillen had already been delivered when he was arrested in March by FBI agents in Florida — money he agreed to forfeit as part of a plea agreement. In addition to the 14 months in prison, Guillen, 44, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Stefan Underhill in Bridgeport to two years of supervised release and a \$10,000 fine. Prosecutors had asked the court to impose a sentence of just over two years, which was at the bottom of the guideline range. □




From left : Former MF Global executives Jon Corzine, chief executive, Bradley Abelow, chief operating officer, and Henri Steenkamp, chief financial officer, before the Senate Agriculture Committee in Washington. Corzine told the committee that he never directed anyone at the bankrupt brokerage firm to misuse customer funds, and that he is unaware of the whereabouts of the missing customer cash. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

## Confusion follows claim that Corzine knew of funds transfer

**BEN PROTESS**  
**AZAM AHMED**  
**© 2011 New York Times**  
**WASHINGTON** — A Senate hearing into the collapse of MF Global was thrown into confusion after a main witness implied that Jon S. Corzine, its former chief executive, knew the firm had been misusing customer funds, an accusation that could not be substantiated. Terrence A. Duffy, executive chairman of the CME Group, told lawmakers that MF Global had used \$175 million in customer funds to lend from one arm of the firm to another — an asser-

tion that, on its face, may not be illegal — and that Corzine had known about it. Later, however, Duffy accused the firm of improperly transferring customer money, without specifying whether MF Global's chief executive had known of those transactions. "Mr. Corzine was aware of the loans being made," Duffy told the Senate Agriculture Committee, adding that MF Global had submitted documents to CME, the major exchange where MF Global did business, that kept "regulators in the dark." □



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# NKorea, U.S. to discuss food aid

**MATTHEW PENNINGTON**

**Associated Press**

**PYONGYANG/WASHINGTON (AP)** — The United States will hold talks with North Korea in Beijing today on the possibility of providing food aid to the impoverished country, the State Department said.

The Obama administration has been deliberating on the issue for months. The United Nations and U.S. charities say aid is badly needed, but it remains a controversial issue. North Korea has plowed resources into a nuclear weapons program even as its people go hungry.

U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights issues Robert King and senior U.S. aid official Jon Brause will meet with North Korea's director-general for American affairs, Ri Gun. The American officials arrived Wednesday in the Chinese capital and the talks start Thursday.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Wednesday they would primarily discuss the need for strict and clear monitoring should the U.S. decide to give aid — amid concerns food could be diverted to North Korea's powerful military and com-

munist party elite.

Nuland termed the possible aid as "nutritional assistance" that as well as regular foodstuffs could include vitamin supplements and high-protein biscuits for malnourished people that would be unlikely to end up "on some leader's banquet table."

"They (North Korean officials) know that we were obviously deeply dissatisfied with the way this went before and that we need more discussions about it," Nuland told a news conference.

The last U.S. food handouts ended in March 2009, when North Korea expelled U.S. charities who were monitoring the distribution. That occurred shortly before the North conducted long-range rocket and nuclear tests that drew stiff international sanctions.



**Yoon Kyung-mi, wife of Coast Guard officer Lee Cheong-ho who was allegedly stabbed by the Chinese fishing boat captain on Monday on the South Korean waters of the Yellow Sea, cries during Lee's funeral service in Incheon, South Korea, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011. Two boys flanking Yoon are their sons Lee Myung-hun, left, and Lee Myung-hoon. The United States will hold talks with North Korea in Beijing Thursday on the possibility of providing food aid to the impoverished country, the State Department said. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)**

U.S. aid workers who took part in the 2008-2009 program say the monitoring was in fact effective, but they were unable to oversee the distribution of 21,000 tons of food that arrived in North Korea as they were leaving the coun-

try. In total, the program sent 170,000 tons during 10 months.

This week's discussions in Beijing come as expectation grows the U.S. could hold a fresh round of talks with North Korea on its nuclear program. □

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## Fitch cuts ratings on 5 European banks

**LONDON (AP)** — Fitch Ratings on Wednesday downgraded the debt ratings for five major European commercial banks and cooperative banking groups, citing the eurozone crisis and stronger headwinds facing the banking sector.

The ratings firm lowered the long-term issuer-default and viability ratings by one notch for French banks Banque Federative du Credit Mutuel and Credit Agricole, Danish lender Danske Bank, and Finland's OP Pohjola Group and The Netherlands' Rabobank Group.

The move follows a review

by Fitch of large European banks.

Fitch said the downgrades of Danske Bank and Credit Agricole reflect their subsidiaries' exposure to troubled eurozone countries.

The firm noted that the eurozone crisis also is hurting other lenders indirectly. Capital markets are not functioning effectively and the crisis is driving economic slowdown.

Uncertainty over how the eurozone crisis will be resolved, in addition to austerity measures being taken by some European governments, will affect commercial banking negatively,

particularly in southern Europe and Ireland, Fitch said. European banks are under mounting pressure. The German government announced Wednesday it is reactivating its financial-sector rescue fund. And the European Banking Authority said last week that the continent's banks need to raise about €115 billion (\$149 billion) to protect lenders against market turmoil, including bad government debt.

Fitch said that the five lenders have improved their capital and liquidity positions, which is a positive for their credit ratings. □



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# Poland thrives on the fringes of the Eurozone

JACK EWING

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**WARSAW, Poland** – Does Poland have the last healthy economy in Europe?

With robust economic growth, rising foreign investment and a new luxury high-rise, designed by Daniel Libeskind, redefining the Warsaw skyline, it certainly feels like a different world from most of its neighbors,

troubled by the debt crisis and recession fears.

Not being part of the eurozone turns out to have been a blessing for Poland – and a lesson in how a national currency can help a country absorb international shocks. But business executives and government leaders are rightly nervous about how long this country of 38 million, the only one in the European Union

to avoid recession in 2009, can again escape the euro area's pain.

"Poland remains an island," said Lucyna Stanczak, country director for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. "The question is, is it going to remain this way? The slowdown in Western Europe will affect Poland one way or another."

Trouble is already spilling



A woman walks through the bustling downtown of Warsaw, Poland. With robust economic growth, rising foreign investment and a new luxury high-rise, designed by Daniel Libeskind, redefining the Warsaw skyline, it certainly feels like a different world from most of its neighbors, troubled by the debt crisis and recession fears.

over the border. Many of Poland's banks are expected to change hands as their West European parent companies, like Com-

merzbank of Germany, struggle to raise cash. The country's main stock index is down 24 percent since April as international investors reflexively lumped Poland into the same category as ailing East European countries like Hungary or Romania. While there is officially no credit squeeze in Poland, small-business loans are increasingly difficult to come by.

"Small companies are not getting financing unless they have a 10-year history and a factory," said Anna Katarzyna Nietyksza, president of Eficom, a Warsaw consulting firm that provides advice to companies on how to apply for European Union funds or for listing on the Warsaw Stock Exchange. "If you don't have collateral, something concrete, you don't get financing."

Although Poland remains staunchly pro-European, there have been stirrings

## Putin ally resigns as speaker of parliament

MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

© 2011 New York Times

**MOSCOW** – The chairman of Russia's ruling party, United Russia, resigned from his post as speaker of the lower house of Parliament on Wednesday, an apparent effort to quell some of the uproar over perceived fraud in recent parliamentary elections.

The chairman, Boris V. Gryzlov, is the highest ranking official in United Russia after Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who serves as the party's leader but is not a member. Intensely loyal to Putin, Gryzlov played a crucial role during his eight years as speaker in pacifying the Russian Parliament, which he once famously said "was no place for political battles."

Gryzlov's decision underscores the pressure on United Russia, which lost its constitutional majority in elections this month, officially gaining 50 percent of the vote. But even that result has been called into question amid widespread accusations that the party engaged in ballot stuffing and other fraud.

In a statement on United Russia's website, Gryzlov

gave no specifics about the reason for his departure. He said he would remain United Russia's chairman but would not take a seat in Parliament.

"Having worked in the State Duma for eight years in a row, I have been able to achieve much of what was intended and much of what my colleagues and I planned to do," he said, referring to the lower house of Parliament. "And while the law imposes no restric-

tions, at the moment I will not be going into the State Duma, believing it inappropriate to remain the speaker of the chamber for more than two terms in a row."

It was not immediately known who would replace him as speaker.

The resignation appeared to be part of a packet of concessions by the authorities to a defiant, upwardly mobile middle class that largely makes up a growing protest movement here. □

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Matinee: fri - wed | Late show: fri & sat



# Journey with Taliban shows militants' resilience

ISHTIAQ MAHSUD

Associated Press

**SOUTH WAZIRISTAN, Pakistan (AP)** —

For 15 hours, we walked with Taliban fighters through territory supposedly controlled by the Pakistani army and frequently pounded by U.S. drone strikes. Avoiding roads and towns, we easily evaded soldiers and were shown recruits drilling with weapons, militant positions and — from a distance — a compound used by foreign fighters.

The rare trip to South Waziristan revealed the resilience of militants in the northwestern tribal areas, some of whom are also battling American soldiers across the frontier in Afghanistan. It also demonstrated that the insurgents, who once ruled much of South Waziristan from permanent bases with many hundreds of fighters, are now largely a guerrilla force there.

The Pakistani Taliban had invited three Pakistani journalists to meet its leader, Hakimullah Mehsud, at a time when splits have appeared in the movement. But Mehsud canceled, with his aides saying he was called into urgent meetings with a delegation of Afghan Taliban elders who had arrived from across the border.

The trip began in the capital of North Waziristan, Miran Shah, where the Pakistan army has yet to



In this photo, masked Pakistani Taliban militants take part in a training session in an area of Pakistan's tribal South Waziristan region along the Afghan border. Associated Press reporter, photographer and videographer Ishtiaq Mahsud spent six days with fighters from the Pakistani Taliban close to the Afghan border. His account of their travels through South Waziristan offers a glimpse into an area that the Pakistani military claimed had been brought under control following an army offensive two years ago.

(AP Photo/Ishtiaq Mahsud)

launch an offensive despite requests from Washington. Militants, including al-Qaida and Afghan Taliban factions, are in firmer control in this region than in South Waziristan. Extremists from other countries and other areas of Pakistan were visible on the streets of the town.

We then drove to the boundary with the south, and began our journey on foot, accompanied by four fighters.

South Waziristan was once

home to about 500,000 people but its towns and villages are now mostly empty. The population was told to flee ahead of a major Pakistani army offensive in 2009. The army has declared victory, but most locals haven't returned. They do not believe official statements that their homeland is safe.

In one abandoned village, three men were living in a single room in a ruined house. They said they couldn't leave because

they had no money and two of them were blind from birth. Their sole possessions were a dirty mat and some blackened cooking pots. One, 30-year-old Mafiq, said the Taliban gave them monthly rations and sometimes cooked food.

At night, we slept in empty houses. Once, we feasted on goat with about 40 fighters in a forest encampment. The Pakistani military remains in South Waziristan in force but its men are often targeted in ambushes.

On the main roads there were army posts, vital for supplying the roughly 30,000 soldiers in the region. But it was easy to travel without being spotted or pursued so long as our group stayed off them. "The army is confined to the roads," said Shameem Mehsud, the operational commander of the Pakistani Taliban. "All the surrounding areas are in Taliban control."

After 15 hours hiking, our group came to a semi-permanent forward position used to attack troops traveling on a main road below.

About 30 fighters were armed with rocket launchers, sniper rifles and artillery. Through binoculars, Mehsud pointed out what appeared to be an anti-aircraft gun on a nearby ridge he said belonged to the Taliban.

As we chatted, the army fired mortars at the position, one round landing about 50 meters (yards) away.

On the return journey to the north, again on foot but using a different route, one of the fighters pointed to a collection of buildings that he said was used by fighters from Turkmenistan. He said fighters from other countries stayed at different places in the region.

The tribal regions, particularly North Waziristan, have become a magnet for Muslims wanting to fight jihad or "holy war." □

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## Caribbean News Briefs

### Prison guards await verdict in massacre case

**LES CAYES, Haiti (AP)** — Lawyers for 13 police officers accused of killing inmates during a prison riot in southern Haiti contended Wednesday that the prisoners themselves fatally shot at each other. With the trial nearing an end, the defense team of more than 20 attorneys said in closing arguments that officers who entered the prison in Les Cayes after Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake did so only to bring order to an already bloody scene. Lawyer Pierre Thomas St. Fort said the defendants are civil servants trying to

do their job under difficult circumstances. An additional 21 officers are being tried in absentia because they fled. All are accused of killing at least 10 prisoners, although United Nations police believe more bodies may have been removed. Lead prosecutor Jean-Marie Salomon said that holding the police responsible would be a boost for human rights in Haiti. Judge Ezekiel Vaval said he planned to leave for New York this weekend to write the verdict, which he expects to release in January. He said he is leaving Haiti for his own safety. □

### Woman accuses police chief of rape

**GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)** — A woman is accusing the chief of Guyana's National Police of rape and says several officers refused to take her complaint. The 34-year-old woman tells reporters in the South American country that Chief Henry Greene took her to a hotel and raped her. She alleges the incident occurred in late November. She made the accusation Wednesday accompanied

by her lawyer at a news conference arranged by a women's group. The lawyer has filed a written complaint to police. The department has not said whether there is an investigation. Greene has declined to comment in detail, saying: "Let God be the judge." The U.S. revoked Greene's visa in 2006 over alleged links to drug trafficking. He has denied the allegations. □

### Cruise ship rescues two ocean rowers

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — A Caribbean-bound cruise ship has rescued two men whose small boat capsized as they rowed across the Atlantic. The Crystal Serenity picked up the pair from a life raft about 480 miles (772 kilometers) west of the Canary Islands. The men said they had been in the raft about 10 hours when they were rescued Wednesday, apparently unharmed. A

large wave sank the boat of British rower Tom Fancett and Dutch rower Tom Sauer. The men were competing with 16 other boats in the 2011 Atlantic Challenge Race. Britain's coast guard was alerted and sent out a request for help. Ship operator Crystal Cruises says the Crystal Serenity diverted south and spent five hours searching for the men. The ship was en route to St. Maarten. □

## 2 more years of arrest for anti-Chavez judge



**Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, second right, speaks to a supporter during a rally in Caracas, Venezuela. Venezuelan authorities this week extended house arrest for a judge whose case has been strongly criticized by human rights groups. (AP Photo/Miraflores Presidential Office)**

**CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER Associated Press**  
**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuelan authorities on Tuesday extended house arrest for a judge whose case has been strongly criticized by human rights groups. Judge Ali Fabricio Paredes ruled that his colleague, Maria Lourdes Afiuni, must remain under house arrest for two more years, saying she has intentionally delayed her own trial by repeatedly refusing to enter a courtroom. Afiuni faces corruption charges that were filed after she released a banker, saying he didn't need to be in jail while he awaited trial on accusations of violating foreign exchange controls. In Venezuela, suspects are not released on bail. Instead, most suspects are whisked away to prison while they await trial. Attorney General Luisa Ortega announced last week that she would ask a judge to extend Afiuni's house arrest. Afiuni's relatives argued that the order keeping her under house arrest should be rescinded. Government opponents, joined by some human rights groups, say Afiuni's case shows President Hugo Chavez's influence over Venezuela's judicial system — a claim that Chavez denies. □

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THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTO



# New laws protect women from abuse in Pakistan

**MUNIR AHMED**  
**SEBASTIAN ABBOT**  
**Associated Press**  
**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — Azim Mai's husband allegedly threw acid in her face last year after she refused to sell their two boys to a man in Dubai to use as camel racers. The 35-year-old mother of five can no longer find work as a maid because her deeply scarred face scares potential employers. Acid burnings are among the most horrific crimes against women in Pakistan that are now criminalized in a landmark set of laws passed by the parliament. They stand to protect millions of women from common forms of abuse in a conservative, Muslim coun-



**Pakistani acid attack survivor, Azim Mai, 35, holds her daughter Shaziya, 8, while sitting on a bed waiting to have a massage session for their wounds, at the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) in Islamabad, Pakistan, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011. Azim Mai's husband allegedly threw acid in her face and their daughter Shaziya last year after she refused to sell their two boys to a man in Dubai to use as camel racers.**  
 (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

try with a terrible history of gender inequality. Rights activists praised the laws Tuesday while stressing their passage was just the first step, and likely not the hardest one. It could be even more difficult to get Pakistan's corrupt and inefficient legal system to protect women's rights that many men in this patriarchal society likely oppose. "This is a big achievement for the women of Pakistan, civil society and the organizations that have been working for more than 30 years to get women friendly bills passed," said Nayyar Shabana Kiyani, who has lobbied for the legislation as part of The Aurat Foundation, a women's rights group.

"We can't really get good results until the laws are implemented at the grass-roots level," she added. The two bills containing the new laws, which received final approval from the Senate on Monday, stiffened the punishment for acid attacks and criminalized practices such as marrying off young girls to settle tribal disputes and preventing women from inheriting property. Mistreatment of women is widespread in Pakistan, a nation of some 175 million where most people are poor, only half the adults can read and extremist ideologies, including the Taliban's, are gaining traction. In 2010, at least 8,000 acid attacks, forced marriages and other forms of violence against women were reported, according to The Aurat Foundation. Because the group relied mostly on media reports, the figure is likely an undercount. Women are discriminated against in other ways as well. Pakistan ranked third to last in 2011 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, only beating Chad and Yemen. The report captures the magnitude of gender-based disparities in things like health and education. The new laws explicitly criminalized acid attacks and mandated that convicted attackers would serve a minimum sentence of 14 years that could extend to life, and pay a minimum fine of about \$11,200. Other new laws mandate a minimum prison sentence of three years for forcing a woman to marry, including to settle tribal disputes; five years for preventing a woman from inheriting property; and three years for a practice known as "marriage to the Holy Quran." Feudal families in rural areas of Pakistan engage in this practice so that women won't receive marriage proposals and their share of the inheritance will stay in the family, said Farzana Bari, head of the gender studies department at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad. □



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## Supervisor of the Year, SHOCO National Award of Tourism 2011

*Presented to Jhoanel Caraballo, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino*



**Oranjestad** -- The Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Labour and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association presented the Shoco National Tourism Awards of Excellence 2011, this past Friday, at the end of the first Tourism Summit, in a festive gathering at the Renaissance Convention Center.

The gala evening celebrated recognitions of outstanding achievements in tourism, awarding Jhoanel Caraballo, Loss Prevention Supervisor, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino the coveted Supervisor of the Year, SHOCO National Award of Tourism 2011.

While in past years the Shoco recognitions were bestowed by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association, this year the awards were taken over by the

Ministry of Tourism, Transportation and Labour, lending the program extra stature which accompanies official government citations. AHATA however remained as one of the proud main sponsors in conjunction with Digicel and Caribbean Mercantile Bank.

In his nomination of Jhoanel Caraballo, as Supervisor of the Year, General Manager Paul Gielen explained that Jhoanel joined the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino in February 2005 as Security Agent and in the short span of just 18 months was promoted to Supervisor in recognition for his serious and responsible approach to duty. Jhoanel earned the respect of his peers and superiors through his consistently cheerful atti-

tude, his dedication to his team and the maturity he displays in often challenging circumstances.

Gielen goes on to explain that the safety & security of guests, employees and facilities are of crucial importance to every resort, and in particular to the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino as the only downtown property here. High-end shopping, two casinos, close proximity to the cruise terminal and the historic part of town, lends the resort a unique set of challenges that its Loss Prevention team must address. Working closely with one of the Caribbean's most advanced surveillance systems, the Loss Prevention team shares

the responsibility of safeguarding the operation and all its components.

Within this world, Jhoanel Caraballo, Hotel Security Supervisor, is an intelligent, level-headed, fearless and loyal asset to the Loss Prevention department. Management can always count on Jhoanel to assist guests in a variety of ways, including providing directions to local landmarks; accompanying them on trips to pharmacies and doctors' offices; helping them track down lost or missing luggage or receiving VIPs after hours. Jhoanel's work ethic, superior language skills and even temperament are a shining example to all who know him and are lucky to

work with him.

In conclusion Gielen stated that Jhoanel Caraballo's invaluable contribution to the success of the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and his warm representation of Aruban hospitality to guests deserves recognition as the SHOCO National Award of Tourism 2011, Supervisor of the Year.

Pictured here the winner with Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, Senior Tourism Advisor Ministry of Tourism, Transportation and Labour as he is receiving his award, also flanked by fellow award recipients, among them Melvin Tromp, Employee of the Year, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. □





## Mrs. Lorraine Cilento wins \$1.000 at the Aura Casino!



**PALM BEACH** - Mrs. Lorraine Cilento discovered her lucky streak in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win". She won a total amount of \$1,000,- at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand while playing on the brand new slot machines! Mrs. Cilento is on

a vacation with her family and friends for a week, and it's her first time coming to Aruba.

The management and staff of the Aura Casino want to wish Mrs. Cilento congratulations on her great win on the slotmachine "Double Bonus Poker."

The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach. Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners! □



## Private Christmas party for Compraat MooMba Beach

**PALM BEACH** - Comprá, one of the large suppliers of MooMba Beach Restaurant and Bar, celebrated Christmas with a private party. Where? At MooMba Beach, of course. The entire Comprá staff was decked out in their finery, shimmering and in great spirits. The beautiful ladies were breathtaking, the men all handsome and distinguished and MooMba in its best Christmas outfit. Chef lake had a luxury Christmas buffet waiting for hungry guests who took a break from dancing to live band XC-lanze. 75 people had a blast on the beach underneath the stars. Merry Christmas! □

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At the Radisson Aruba Resort Spa & Casino

# Jessica Porter and Chris Machado are Wed



**Palm Beach** – Jessica and Chris got married against the backdrop of a perfect sunset on the beach at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, surrounded by more than 40 family members and friends who arrived here for a destination wedding from Boston, Massachusetts. Both Bride and Groom have

been to Aruba before, and jointly decided it would be the perfect location for their upcoming nuptials. They tied the knot on December 13, 2011, on their 7th anniversary together, Jessica explains it was the lucky 7th on the 13th!!! Pictured here some unforgettable wedding moments! □





# Bushiri Christmas Challenge Karting Competition

This coming Saturday, December 17 the last go karting race of the year will take place at Bushiri Karting Speedway!

After the first successful competition of Bushiri Karting Nationals in November 2011 they have decided to throw another karting competition to end the year off with an adrenaline rush!

Since Bushiri Karting Speedway has opened their doors for everyone to enjoy the sport of go karting with 16 available karts to rent all year round and also the facility that anyone can have fun and enjoy with the whole family.

They are working hard and everybody can see that the sport is growing more and more each day with new race fans visiting every day.

From children to grown-ups, everybody can race at Bushiri Karting Speedway.

Bushiri Karting Speedway wants to invite everybody to participate in the December 17 race, be it by competing or watching on the sidelines, it will definitely be an event you wouldn't want to miss.

There will be fast professional go kart racing going on at the only outdoor karting track in Aruba. There will also be a Rental category for those who don't have their own go karts.

There will be a racing ambiance, good food, drinks, and live bands playing at the last race of the year. After the competition the party will continue at Fuel Sports Bar & Grill situated at Bushiri Karting Speedway (on the dirt road behind Ling & Sons supermarket).

This race and after party will be held to keep the sport of karting growing in Aruba.

Those who would like to compete please call 583-5278 or pass by at the track before Friday December 16.

Bushiri Karting Speedway is open every day from 10:00am-6:30pm. Inscription fee for Rental category



is awg 100,- which includes your kart and all equipment.

Inscription fee for 2 stroke drivers and 4 stroke drivers

is awg 75,-.

This end of year race on Saturday, December 17 will start from 9:00 am until midnight and will be very



entertaining with all the fast karts and great bar and music for everyone to enjoy.

We are located behind Ling & Sons supermarket. □





# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



New Orleans Hornets guard Chris Paul participates in the first day of NBA basketball training camp in Westwego, La., Friday, Dec. 9, 2011.

Associated Press

### AP Sources: Hornets, Clippers agree on Paul trade

By BRETT MARTEL

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — The Hornets have agreed in principle to deal Chris Paul to the Los Angeles Clippers for guard Eric Gordon, forward Al-Farouq Aminu, center Chris Kaman and a first-round draft choice, people familiar with negotiations said.

ESPN, citing anonymous sources, first reported the trade, which also involves New Orleans sending two future second-round draft picks to the Clippers.

Commissioner David Stern approved the trade on behalf of the league-owned team, people told The Associated Press Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the NBA had not ratified the deal. The 26-year-old Paul is a four-time All-Star who averaged 18.7 points and 9.8 assists last season, his sixth in the NBA. His move to the Clippers means he'll now be able to make alley-oop lobbs to a young star famous for dunking over a car. That would be forward Blake Griffin, who averaged 22.5 points and 12.1 rebounds last season, his first in the NBA. □

## BOOK OF TIMOTHY



### Tebow mixes faith and football with no apologies

Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow (15) reacts after fumbling the ball for a turnover in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011, in Denver.

Associated Press  
Next Page



# Tebow mixes faith and football with no apologies

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer  
ENGLEWOOD,

Colorado (AP) — The Gospel and the gridiron are inextricably intertwined in Tim Tebow's world.

The scrambling quarterback and devout Christian draws as much scrutiny for mixing faith with football as he does for his unconventional winning ways.

With all eyes on the quirky QB who has led the Denver Broncos' remarkable resurgence, Tebow isn't shy about publicly professing his religious beliefs, often ending interviews with a hardy "God Bless!"

He inspired a viral phenomenon known as "Tebowing" when he dropped to a knee in prayerful reflection as his teammates celebrated around him in Miami after the first in a string of six outrageous comebacks.

Raised by missionary parents, Tebow wore Bible verses on his eye black at Florida and still preaches to villagers in the Philippines and inspires inmates during jailhouse talks.

And he's sharing his religious beliefs with his teammates as enthusiastically as he yells the cadence at the line of scrimmage on Sundays.

Coach John Fox asked Tebow to give the weekly address to the team on the eve of a game against at San Diego last month, and nobody was surprised when Tebow shared Proverbs 27:17 — "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another," something Tebow deemed appropriate as offense, defense and special teams feed off one another in what NFL junkies call "complementary football."

Another time, Tebow approached defensive players before a home game against the New York Jets and told them not to fret, God's got this.

"I like his passion," Fox said. "I think in today's world with all that's going on in sport and our society, I think it's wonderful."

Others cringe.

Former Broncos quarter-



back Jake Plummer said he likes Tebow but would like him a lot more if he would quit reminding everybody how much he loves Jesus Christ.

No way, Tebow said, insisting he isn't "just a Christian or a believer at church."

Many an athlete has used his platform as a pulpit.

Chap Clark, a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, a prominent evangelical school based in California, said Tebow's unorthodox route to success, after so many predicted he would fail as a quarterback, has set him and his faith apart, even from the many other athletes who talk about their religious principles.

"Tim has this ferocity as a competitor, but it's still a game to him.

He is consistently saying that football is not the center of life," Clark said. "His great strength is that even people who don't agree with his faith at all play their best around him."

Tebow recently told The Associated Press that he knows his openness about his religion can be divisive but he feels compelled to share his story of salvation regardless of the sensitivity of the subject,

and he relayed one of his favorite quotes: "I don't know what my future holds, but I know who holds my future," in showing how he leans on his faith so he can focus on football unen-



Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow (15) stands in the huddle with wide receiver Demaryius Thomas (88) and wide receiver Eric Decker (87) after a touchdown by the Chicago Bears in the third quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011, in Denver.

Associated Press

cumbered by others' opinions.

"To get me through? Without a doubt, 100 percent," Tebow said. "And that's the thing about my faith: it's not just something that happens when you're at church or happens when you're praying or reading the Scripture. It's part of who you are, as a person, as a player, in your life and everything."

Teammate Brian Dawkins, who's equally enthusiastic about sharing his Christianity, said he can't fathom

why anyone would have a problem with somebody invoking his right to free speech or freedom of religion.

"He doesn't pull up a pulpit in the middle of the locker room and say, 'Hey, everybody, gather 'round, let me tell you something.' That's now how this thing works," Dawkins said. "It's individual. If someone asks a question, we'll share our faith and our testimony."

"I don't understand why it's such a big deal. Tebow, he's not the first one, Reg-

gie White, Irving Fryar, there are many guys who have lived their lives with outside faith. But for whatever reason, Tim gets so much grief now. To this day, I don't understand it.

"Football is what we do, not who we are."

Amen to that, Tebow said. The scrambler, who sometimes sings hymns as he runs onto the football field to stay calm in crunch time, said he can't compartmentalize his faith because it's such an integral part of who he is.

"Unfortunately, a lot of people do, but what I feel is living your faith and being genuine is in everything you do and that's football,

that's life," Tebow said.

So, he's not going to stop praying on the field or praising God in public even if some find it offensive.

Whether or not his teammates share in his tenets, there's no denying he's inspiring them.

"He had everybody listening" when he spoke about the Proverbs, linebacker Wesley Woodyard said. "Just to see him get up there and talk and believe in himself, that's something that spreads throughout the whole team. □



# Winning 2 money titles kept Donald on the go

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP)**

— Luke Donald is the first player to win the money title on the PGA Tour and the European Tour in the same season. He is not the first player to win the most money on both tours in the same year.

The European Tour media guide lists Tiger Woods as the "leading money winner in Europe" six times — 1999, 2000, 2002 and three straight seasons starting in 2005. The Order of Merit was won those years by Colin Montgomerie ('99, '05), Lee Westwood ('00), Retief Goosen ('01), Pad-

raig Harrington ('06) and Justin Rose ('07).

This is more than a case of semantics, though.

To be eligible for the money title, a player must be a member of each tour. Membership requires a minimum number of starts. And that requires some juggling of tournaments and a fair amount of travel.

Donald played 25 times this year between the PGA Tour and European Tour, with the majors and World Golf Championships counting toward both tours. Technically, he was credited with 19 starts on the PGA Tour and 13 starts on the European Tour.

Twice this year, Donald played four straight weeks while crossing the ocean.

Donald went from Florida (Players Championship) to Spain (World Match Play) to England (BMW PGA Championship) to Ohio (Memorial) in the spring. He went from Chicago (BMW Championship) to Atlanta (Tour Championship) to Scotland (Dunhill Links) to Spain (Madrid Masters) in the fall. "It's not easy to be a member of both tours and do what I've done," Donald said Tuesday.

"There's only really a handful of people that do it, so obviously there's a limited number of people that can



England's Luke Donald celebrates after he wins the Race to Dubai of European Championship tour of 2011 in final round of Dubai World Championship golf tournament on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**Associated Press**

do it in any one year.

To be the first is very special, and I think it's probably my greatest achievement this year."

Woods also had seven events (majors and WGCs) count toward being the "leading money winner." The closest he came to the

minimum events required for membership in Europe — when the minimum used to be 11 tournaments — was in 2006.

He played 10 times. Then again, he would have had to apply for membership, and that apparently never interested him. □



## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

**Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"**



**ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.**

Driftwood owner Herby

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What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



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[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)  
Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm. □





# Selanne returning to where his NHL career began

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)** — Teemu Selanne is looking forward to returning to the city where he was dubbed the Finnish Flash.

"The memories that I have, I'm very excited," the Anaheim Ducks' 41-year-old right-winger said Tuesday in a conference call ahead of their visit to Winnipeg on Saturday.

"It's going to be a very special day there and I can't wait."

Selanne started his NHL career with the old Winnipeg Jets in 1992, and his 76 goals and 132 points in that season still stand as a rookie record, earning him a Calder Trophy.

He still has friends in the city and marked his calendar with the Winnipeg date as soon as the schedule came out. Selanne also enjoys spotting his old former Jets No. 13 jersey in a crowd.



**Nashville Predators goalie Pekka Rinne (35), of Finland, blocks a shot by Anaheim Ducks right wing Teemu Selanne (8), of Finland, in the first period of an NHL hockey game on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, in Nashville, Tenn.**

**Associated Press**

"The memories I have from there were so awesome," he said.

One memory that he doesn't relish is the day Winnipeg traded him to the

Ducks in 1996, just before the Jets moved to Phoenix to become the Coyotes.

Coming from Finland, he was used to players staying with the same team for

their whole careers.

He says he was told at the time not to worry about trade rumors and that he would stay with the team as it moved.

Instead, he was traded for Chad Kilger, Oleg Tverdokovsky and a third-round draft pick.

"The first couple of days I was just totally shocked about what happened," Selanne said.

"It was kind of a weird business to realize and face that there's no feelings and you can get traded any time and there's no control with that. That was a big adjustment here."

He moved to San Jose in 2000-01, spending three seasons with the Sharks and another with the Colorado Avalanche before returning to Anaheim for the 2005-06 season.

Last summer, when he was a free agent, the new Win-

ipeg Jets came calling but he decided to stay put, if he was going to play at all — something he says he has been pondering every season for about the last five.

"The biggest question right now is if I can play, not where I'm going to play," he says.

"I was very honored that they called but it's too late to move."

His 29 points this season lead the Ducks in scoring. Anaheim (8-16-5) is enduring a rough season, sitting 29th in the league just one point ahead of Columbus. The team recently made a coaching change, firing Randy Carlyle and replacing him with Bruce Boudreau.

"I still think we have a really good team here, even if the standings don't show that right now," Selanne said. □



**Milwaukee Brewers new third baseman Aramis Ramirez looks on during a baseball news conference at Miller Park, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011, in Milwaukee. The Brewers finalized a \$36 million, three-year contract with Ramirez, adding a much-needed bat to their lineup.**

**Associated Press**

**By CHRIS JENKINS**  
**AP Sports Writer**  
**MILWAUKEE**

**(AP)**—

With Prince Fielder all but gone and Ryan Braun facing a possible 50-game suspension, the Milwaukee Brewers needed another source of offense.

The Brewers finalized a \$36

million, three-year contract with free agent third baseman Aramis Ramirez on Wednesday, adding a much-needed bat to their lineup.

Ramirez, who played the past eight-plus seasons for the NL Central rival Chicago Cubs, said he considers

## Ramirez and Brewers finalize \$36M deal

the Brewers a team that will be in position contend every year for the foreseeable future—even if they do lose Braun for a chunk of next season and lose Fielder for good.

"You're going to miss those guys if Ryan Braun is suspended, but I think you win with pitching," Ramirez said.

And while Ramirez said he'll do his best to help produce runs, he doesn't see himself as a direct replacement for Fielder.

"You can't replace Prince Fielder," Ramirez said. "He's one of the best hitters in the game." Brewers general manager Doug Melvin acknowledged that Wednesday's signing of Ramirez more or less means that they're moving on from Fielder, who is almost sure to sign elsewhere.

"It appears, obviously, that Prince Fielder will probably not be coming back at this time," Melvin said. "So we had to move forward."

Braun, the NL MVP, is appealing a positive test for a banned substance.

"There's a lot of uncertainty, but we're moving forward with him being a part of our

ballclub," Melvin said.

Melvin said the team wasn't going to change its off-season plans to compensate for the potential loss of Braun.

"We're just doing business as usual," Melvin said.

The 33-year-old Ramirez played 149 games for the Cubs last year, batting .306 with 26 home runs and 93 RBIs.

"He's got some pretty impressive credentials," Melvin said. "I know when we always played them, he's the one guy that I always feared coming up there in key situations, with men on base."

Ramirez has been with the Cubs since he was traded by Pittsburgh to Chicago in the middle of the 2003 season. Ramirez isn't quite sure what to expect now that he's on the other side of the intense Cubs-Brewers rivalry. "I don't know," Ramirez said. "I've got to experience it first. I know it's going to be a little different, because I played in Chicago most of my career."

And he'll enjoy playing in Miller Park with the roof closed in April.

"I just don't like the cold

weather," Ramirez said.

Ramirez gets \$6 million next year, \$10 million in 2013 and \$16 million in 2014, of which \$6 million is deferred. There is a \$14 million mutual option for 2015 with a \$4 million buyout.

The deferred money from 2014 is due in two \$3 million payments on Dec. 15 in 2017 and 2018. If the 2015 buyout money is paid, it would be owed in two \$2 million payments on Dec. 15 in 2015 and 2016.

Part of the Brewers' pitch to land Ramirez came from principal owner Mark Atanasio and manager Ron Roenicke, who met with Ramirez in California while he was there to visit with another team that was interested in signing him.

Melvin said he recently talked to former Cubs general manager Jim Hendry, who said Ramirez is the kind of hitter you want at the plate in pressure situations.

"Like Aramis said, you're probably not ever going to totally replace Prince," Melvin said. "But these are some big numbers that he's put up."

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## NHL Roundup

# Red Wings drop injury-depleted Penguins 4-1

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Pavel Datsyuk had a goal and an assist and Jimmy Howard stopped 25 shots to lead the Detroit Red Wings to a 4-1 victory over the injury-depleted Pittsburgh Penguins on Tuesday.

Johan Franzen added his team-leading 14th goal for Detroit and Danny Cleary provided some insurance with a pair of late goals as the Red Wings won their third straight.

It was Detroit's first victory in Pittsburgh in three seasons. The teams have turned into heated rivals, splitting a pair of thrilling Stanley Cup finals in 2008 and 2009.

Evgeni Malkin scored his 11th goal of the season for Pittsburgh.

### BRUINS 3, KINGS 0

At Boston, Brad Marchand scored twice and Tuukka Rask earned his first shutout of the season, leading Boston over Los Angeles in the Kings' first game under interim coach John Stevens. Rask, the backup for Vezina and Conn Smythe Trophy winner Tim Thomas, made 41 saves to extend his shutout streak to 95 minutes, 10 seconds. Rich Peverley also scored for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who won for the 16th time in 19 games.

Jonathan Quick stopped 19 shots for the Kings, who lost their fifth consecutive game. Los Angeles fired Terry Murray on Monday and replaced him with his assistant.

### FLYERS 5, CAPITALS 1

At Washington, Scott Hart-

nell extended his goal-scoring streak to six games and Marc-Andre Bourdon got his first NHL goal as Philadelphia beat Washington for its sixth straight victory.

Philadelphia, which owns the best record in the Eastern Conference, built a 4-0 lead in the second period and coasted to the finish. Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 31 shots, the lone flaw in his performance a tap-in by Jeff Halpern with 6:01 left.

The Flyers were without the NHL's leading scorer, Claude Giroux, who is out indefinitely with a concussion. The right wing accumulated 16 goals and 23 assists in Philadelphia's first 28 games.

### STARS 1, RANGERS 0

At New York, Trevor Daley broke up a scoreless game with 4:59 left and Richard Bachman made 34 saves to win his second straight start as Dallas beat the New York Rangers.

Daley finished off a give-and-go with Mike Ribeiro in the closing minutes. That was enough to give Bachman the win in his second career start. He also beat Los Angeles 2-1 on Sunday at the start of Dallas' five-game trip that spans both coasts.

Henrik Lundqvist was the hard-luck loser despite making 27 saves and shaking off a second-period injury. The Rangers lost for the third time in 10 games (7-2-1).

### SENATORS 3, SABRES 2, OT

At Buffalo, New York, Jared Cowen scored 45 seconds

into overtime to give Ottawa a victory over Buffalo. Cowen pinched into the slot and redirected a pass from Erik Karlsson in the right corner.

Milan Michalek and Peter Regin also scored for the Senators, who trailed 2-1 in the first period. Michalek, who leads the NHL with 19 goals, left with 5½ minutes remaining in the second after colliding with Karlsson.

\*Craig Anderson stopped 27 shots.

### MAPLE LEAFS 2, HURRICANES 1, OT

At Toronto, Tim Connolly scored his second goal of the game at 44 seconds of overtime to lift Toronto over Carolina.

The Maple Leafs center went to the crease and had an empty net to shoot at when Joffrey Lupul's shot dribbled past Cam Ward, who made 36 saves.

Alex Ponikarovsky scored for the Hurricanes.

### BLUE JACKETS 2, CANUCKS 1, SO

At Columbus, Ohio, James Wisniewski had the last of Columbus' three shootout goals and Steve Mason made several big stops in his first game after a 27-day benching to lead the Blue Jackets over Vancouver.

Mason shut out the Canucks for two periods and finished with 30 saves. He stopped one of the two shooters he faced in the shootout while Mark Letestu, Rick Nash and Wisniewski all found the net against Roberto Luongo.

Jeff Carter had the Blue



Los Angeles Kings center Colin Fraser (24) goes flying after colliding with Boston Bruins defenseman Andrew Ference (21) as referee Dave Jackson (8) protects himself in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011. The Bruins won 3-0.

Associated Press

Jackets' power-play goal in the first period off assists from Wisniewski and Letestu.

Maxim Lapierre scored for the Canucks, who had won four in a row, nine of 10 and their last five on the road.

### DEVILS 3, PANTHERS 2, SO

At Sunrise, Florida, Ilya Kovalchuk and Patrik Elias scored in the shootout for New Jersey and Martin Brodeur stopped both Florida attempts.

Elias and Zach Parise had the New Jersey goals in regulation.

Kris Versteeg scored twice for Florida and Jose Theodore stopped 32 shots.

### CANADIENS 5, ISLANDERS 3

At Montreal, Petteri Nokelainen scored with 6:15 remaining as Montreal recovered to beat New York after giving up a two-goal

lead in the third period.

Nokelainen drove a slap shot past Al Montoya from the right point for the tie-breaking goal moments after the Canadiens squandered a 3-1 advantage. Hal Gill added an empty-netter in the final minute for his first goal of the season. Andrei Kostitsyn and Mathieu Darche scored in the first period. Erik Cole scored the third.

**In other Columbus 2, Vancouver 1, SO; New Jersey 3, Florida 2, SO; Colorado 4, San Jose 3, SO; Boston 3, Los Angeles 0; Ottawa 3, Buffalo 2, OT; Toronto 2, Carolina 1, OT; Dallas 1, N.Y. Rangers 0; Detroit 4, Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 5, Washington 1; Montreal 5, N.Y. Islanders 3; Nashville 2, Calgary 1; and Winnipeg 2, Minnesota 1.** □





In this Nov. 30, 2011, file photo, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius participates in an roundtable discussion on health information technology and job creation at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland.

Associated Press

## APNewsBreak: 2.5M young adults in U.S. gain coverage

**RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of young adults in the U.S. lacking medical coverage has shrunk by 2.5 million since the new health care overhaul law took effect, according to a new analysis the Obama administration is to release Wednesday. That drop is 2½ times as large as the one indicated by previous government and private estimates from earlier this year, which showed about 1 million Americans ages 19-25 had gained coverage. Under the health overhaul, children can remain on their parents' health insurance plans until they turn 26, and families have flocked to sign up young adults making the transition to work in a challenging economic environment. But the fate of President Barack Obama's signature domestic accomplishment remains uncertain, with the Supreme Court scheduled to hear a constitutional challenge next year, and Republican presidential candidates vowing to repeal it.

"The increase in coverage among 19- to 25-year-

olds can be directly attributed to the Affordable Care Act's new dependent coverage provision," said a draft report from the Health and Human Services Department. "Initial gains from this policy have continued to grow as ... students graduate from high school and college." A copy of the report was obtained by The Associated Press.

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is scheduled to release the findings Wednesday.

The health care law's main push to cover the uninsured doesn't come until 2014. But the young adults' provision took effect last fall. Most workplace health plans started carrying it out Jan. 1.

Traditionally, young adults were more likely to be uninsured than any other age group.

Some are making the switch from school to work. Others are holding down low-wage jobs that don't usually come with health care. And some — termed the "invincibles" — pass up job-based health insurance because they don't think they'll use it and would rather get extra money in their paychecks. □

# Survey: 1 in 5 U.S. women victims of sexual assault

By **MIKE STOBBE**

**Chart shows violence against women by intimate partners**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — It's a startling number: 1 in 4 women surveyed by the government say they were violently attacked by their husbands or boyfriends. Experts in domestic violence don't find it too sur-

had this kind of estimate" on the prevalence of intimate partner violence, said Linda Degutis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The survey, released by the CDC Wednesday, marks the beginning of a new annual project to look at how many women say they've been abused.

One expert called the new report's estimate on rape and attempted rape "extremely high" — with 1 in 5 women saying they were victims. About half of those cases involved intimate partners. No documentation was sought to verify the women's claims, which were made anonymously. But advocates say the new rape numbers are plausible.

"It's a major problem that often is under-estimated and over-looked," said Linda James, director of health for Futures Without Violence, a San Francisco-based organization that advocates against domestic abuse.

The CDC report is based on a randomized telephone survey of about 9,000 women and 7,400 men.

Among the findings:

— As many as 29 million women say they have suffered severe and frightening physical violence from a boyfriend, spouse or other intimate partner. That includes being choked, beaten, stabbed, shot, punched, slammed

against something or hurt by hair-pulling.

— That number grows to 36 million if slapping, pushing and shoving are counted.

— Almost half of the women who reported rape or attempted rape said it happened when they were 17 or younger.

—As many as 1 in 3 women have experienced rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetimes, compared to about 1 in 10 men.

—Both men and women who had been menaced or attacked in these ways reported more health problems. Female victims, in particular, had significantly higher rates of irritable bowel syndrome, asthma, frequent headaches and difficulty sleeping.

—Certain states seemed to have higher reports of sexual violence than others. Alaska, Oregon and Nevada were among the highest in rapes and attempted rapes of women, and Virginia and Tennessee were among the lowest.

Several of the CDC numbers are higher than those of other sources. For example, the CDC study suggests that 1.3 million women have suffered rape, attempted rape or had sex forced on them in the previous year. That statistic is more than seven times greater than what was reported by a Department of Justice household survey conducted last year. □

### Women and abuse

Percentage of women saying they were the victim of rape, attempted rape, physical abuse or stalking by their intimate partner:



\*Non-Hispanic  
NOTE: Survey of 9,000 women in 2010

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

prising, although some aspects of the survey may have led to higher numbers than are sometimes reported.

Even so, a government official who oversaw the research called the results "astounding."

"It's the first time we've

## UK experts: Too soon to use brain science in court

**MARIA CHENG**  
AP Medical Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — Criminal behavior can't be blamed on how someone's brain is wired, at least not yet, says a report from British experts who examined how neuroscience is being used in some court cases. "Having a psychotic brain is not a general defense against a criminal charge," said Nicholas Mackintosh,

emeritus professor of experimental psychology at the University of Cambridge, who led the group that produced the report. "There's no such thing as a gene for violence." The report was done by the Royal Society, the world's oldest scientific academy. The document is part of the group's ongoing investigation of the effects of recent advances in neuroscience on various

parts of society, including education and the law. Another report early next year will look at the potential implications of neuroscience on military and security issues. After examining the state of neuroscience and how it might apply to the legal system in the U.K., the Royal Society concluded it's too soon for the law to be swayed by scientists' understanding of the brain. □



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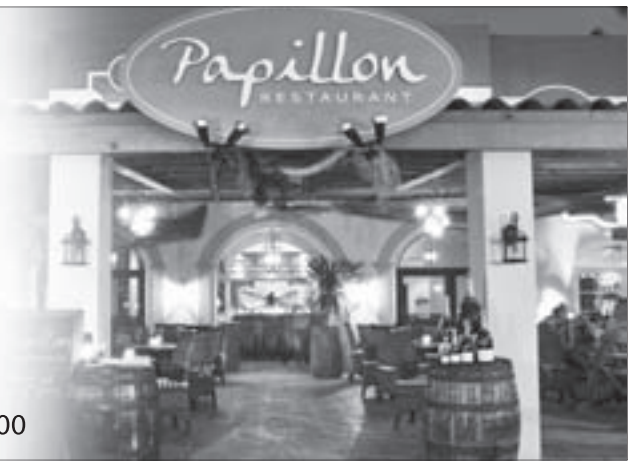
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# U.S. urges ban on texting, talking while driving

**SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Ren Bishop is one of many American drivers who texts, tweets and talks on her cell-phone while she's behind the wheel — and thinks it should be up to drivers to use their discretion when it comes to safety.

Though she admits thumbing her phone while driving is a bad habit, the University of Missouri student says drivers "are mature enough to understand when it is appropriate and when it is not."

The National Transportation Safety Board disagrees, and it declared Tuesday that texting, emailing or chatting while driving is simply too dangerous to be allowed anywhere in the United States.

The board is urging all states to impose total bans except for emergencies following recent deadly crashes, including one in Missouri after a teenager sent or received 11 text messages within 11 minutes.

The unanimous recommendation from the five-member board would apply even to hands-free devices, a much stricter rule than any current state law.

NTSB chairwoman Deborah Hersman acknowledged that complying would involve changing what has become ingrained behavior for many Americans.

"We're not here to win a popularity contest," she said. "No email, no text, no update, no call is worth a human life."

Currently, 35 states and the District of Columbia ban texting while driving, while nine states and Washington, D.C., bar hand-held

cellphone use. Thirty states ban all cellphone use for beginning drivers. But enforcement is generally not a high priority, and no states ban the use of hands-free devices for all drivers.

The immediate impetus for the NTSB's recommendation was last year's deadly pileup near Gray Summit, Missouri, involving a 19-year-old pickup driver.

The board said the initial collision was caused by the teen's inattention while texting a friend about events of the previous night. The pickup, traveling 55 mph (89 kph), hit the back of a tractor truck that had slowed for highway construction. The pickup was rear-ended by a school bus, and a second school bus rammed into the back of the first bus.

The pickup driver and a 15-year-old student on one of the buses were killed. Thirty-eight other people were injured.

In Missouri, texting is illegal for drivers 21 and under, which means the law would have applied to the 19-year-old. But the ban isn't aggressively enforced, NTSB member Robert Sumwalt said.

"Without the enforcement, the laws don't mean a whole lot," he said.

The law didn't apply to 22-year-old Bishop when she was pulled over Monday night for swerving while texting on the University of Missouri campus.

She blames a late night and schoolwork. The officer who stopped her told her to put her phone in the back seat and sent her home with a warning.

"I definitely have the bad habit of tweeting and driving, texting and driving,



**In this Sept. 20, 2011 file photo, a phone is held in a car in Brunswick, Maine. Texting, emailing or chatting on a cellphone while driving is simply too dangerous to be allowed, federal safety investigators declared Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, urging all states to impose total bans except for emergencies.**

**Associated Press**

and updating my Facebook status," Bishop said. "I probably shouldn't but the technology makes it too easy."

About two out of 10 American drivers overall — and half of drivers between 21 and 24 — say they've thumbed messages or emailed from the driver's seat, according to a survey of more than 6,000 drivers by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

At any given moment last year on America's streets and highways, nearly one in every 100 car drivers was texting, emailing, surfing the Web or otherwise using a hand-held electronic device, the safety administration said. Those activities were up 50 percent over the previous year.

NTSB investigators said they are seeing increasing texting, cellphone calls and other distracting behavior by drivers in accidents involving all kinds of transportation. It has become routine to immediately re-

quest the preservation of cellphone and texting records when an investigation begins.



**National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chair Deborah Hersman gestures during a news conference in Washington Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, to discuss the NTSB's recommendation to ban all cellphone, portable electronic device use by drivers except for emergencies.**

**Associated Press**

quest the preservation of cellphone and texting records when an investigation begins.

In the past few years, the board has investigated a train collision in which the engineer was texting that killed 25 people in Chatsworth, California, a fatal accident near Philadelphia in which a tugboat pilot was talking on his cell-

free cellphone use in its recommendation is likely to prove especially controversial.

No states currently ban hand-free use, although many studies show that it is often as unsafe as hand-held phone use because drivers' minds are on their conversations rather than what's happening on the road. □



## Stocks slide as worries about debt persist

**MATTHEW CRAFT**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A growing sense that Europe's leaders have failed to contain that region's debt crisis swept through financial markets Wednesday. It started with the euro dropping below \$1.30 for the first time since January and a jump in borrowing costs for Italian government debt. By the end of the trading day the Dow had lost 131 points, European stock indexes fell as much as 3 percent and gold dropped \$76, ending below \$1,600 an ounce for the first time in more than

how all these efforts will get this situation stabilized." Italy had to pay higher borrowing rates in its last bond auction of the year Wednesday. The euro zone's third-largest economy paid 6.47 percent interest to borrow €3 billion (\$3.95 billion) for five years, up from 6.30 percent just a month ago. The higher rates make it more expensive for Italy to borrow money and reflect rising doubts that the country will be able to repay its debts. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 131.46 points, or 1.1 percent, to close at 11,823.48. Caterpillar Inc.

est closing price since July. Commodity prices tend to fall when the dollar gains strength, since a stronger dollar makes it more expensive for investors using other currencies to buy commodities, which are priced in dollars.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dropped to 1.91 percent from 1.96 percent late Tuesday as demand increased for ultra-safe assets. High demand for U.S. government debt helped the government sell \$13 billion in 30-year bonds at a record low rate of 2.92 percent. In a note to cli-



**Kate Flannery, who plays "Meredith" and Oscar Nunez, right, who plays Oscar on the NBC television program "The Office," visit specialist Mike Pistillo, during their tour of the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday. The pair were promoting Dunder Mifflin-branded copy paper, named for the fictional company on the show. A growing sense that Europe's leaders have failed to contain that region's debt crisis swept through financial markets Wednesday.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

two months.

Investors dumped assets that might be seen as risky and piled into the most conservative ones around: the dollar and U.S. government debt. The market appears to be in "sell now and ask questions later mode," said John Canally, investment strategist at LPL Financial. Since European leaders reached an agreement to rein in future government budget deficits last week, investors and credit rating agencies have criticized the deal for failing to address current problems. "Markets are impatient," Canally said. "They still can't see

fell 4.4 percent, the worst drop among the 30 stocks in the Dow.

Canally said the fear that another bank failure will lead to a financial crisis like Lehman Brothers did in 2008 overshadows everything else, he said. Markets are so jittery now that traders see a slight drop in the euro or a small rise in Italian government bond yields as a step toward a wider collapse. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 13.91 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,211.82. The Nasdaq fell 39.96, or 1.6 percent to 2,539.31. Gold dropped 4.6 percent to settle at \$1,586, the low-

ents, strategists at Nomura said "the insatiable appetite" for Treasuries at such low yields implies that bond buyers are readying themselves for "the end-of-the-euro-trade." The dollar also rose against other currencies. The euro shed about a penny against the dollar to \$1.29 and has now lost 3 percent in three days. European markets fell broadly. Germany's DAX dropped 1.7 percent; France's main stock index lost 3.3 percent. Energy stocks led the U.S. stock market lower after the price of crude oil lost \$5 to \$94.95 a barrel. □

## Yahoo shares fall after Goldman derides stock



**Yahoo shares dropped Wednesday after Goldman Sachs advised investors to sell the struggling Internet company's stock.**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Yahoo shares dropped Wednesday after Goldman Sachs advised investors to sell the struggling Internet company's stock. Goldman Sachs analyst Heath Terry depicted Yahoo as a perpetually misguided company that will have trouble competing against more innovative rivals that have been forging ahead with compelling products that are winning over consumers and advertisers.

Yahoo Inc. has spent much of the past three months evaluating whether it makes sense to sell all or part of the company, but Terry predicted the outcome of that review will probably aggravate already frustrated investors. "The segment of management driving the company is intent on trying to revive Yahoo as a company, regardless of the cost to shareholders," Terry wrote in the Goldman Sachs report. Yahoo declined comment on Wednesday. The company, which is based in Sunnyvale, California, has previously said its board's strategic review "is being properly managed for the benefit of all shareholders." Wall Street is running out of patience with Yahoo because it has been promising better times while going through three different CEOs since June 2007.

The company began its current reassessment after firing Carol Bartz as CEO in September because she hadn't engineered a turnaround during more than two years on the job. Her

predecessors, Terry Semel and Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang, didn't deliver on their promises, either. Tim Morse, Yahoo's chief financial officer, has been running the company on an interim basis since Bartz's ouster. Yahoo still holds some appeal because its brand ranks among the best-known on the Internet and its website reaches a worldwide audience of about 700 million. But Yahoo's visitors are sticking around for shorter periods while rivals Google Inc. and Facebook have been coming up ways to cling to people longer. That's one of the main reasons advertisers are spending more money with Google, the Internet's search leader, and Facebook, which operates the largest online social network. Facebook's success also inspired Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to put together a \$1.5 billion investment in the privately held company earlier this year. Meanwhile, Yahoo is losing market share, causing its revenue to droop even as advertisers increase their budgets for digital marketing. It's gotten so bad that the most valuable parts of Yahoo aren't even in its operating business. Yahoo's Asian investments — a roughly 40 percent stake in China's Alibaba Group and a 35 percent stake in Yahoo Japan — are now considered to be the company's crown jewels. Goldman Sachs estimates Yahoo could bring in about \$10 billion, after taxes, from a sale of its Asian holdings. □



# Euro under pressure as EU summit optimism fades

**DAVID McHUGH**  
**GABRIELE STEINHAUSER**  
**AP Business Writers**

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** — Investors have soured on the latest attempt to resolve the European debt crisis.

Stocks tumbled around the world, the euro slid to an 11-month low and borrowing costs spiked for heavily indebted Italy. The markets' jitters reflect rising doubts about the deal European Union leaders reached at a summit last Friday in Brussels.

The agreement requires the 17 countries that use the euro and nine other EU countries to balance their budgets and gives the International Monetary Fund up to €200 (\$264 billion) to help countries with high debt loads.

But there's growing disappointment that the new EU treaty:

- Doesn't reduce existing government debt levels;
- Doesn't do much to promote the long-term growth that would shrink those burdens;
- Doesn't provide enough money to reassure financial markets that Italy and

Spain won't default on their debts.

It was also unclear how the treaty would be enforced and whether some of the countries that signed on might end up dropping out because of resistance to budget cuts back home. Britain has already refused to sign the treaty.

"Markets like quick fixes and have no patience with the length of the political processes," said Gianni Toniolo, a professor of economics and history at Duke University.

The euro traded below \$1.30 for the first time since January 12, hitting a low of \$1.2973. Some of that is loss of confidence in the assets of the 17 euro nations, but it's also the result of two quarter-point interest rate cuts from the European Central Bank. The cuts lower the return on euro-denominated holdings and can induce investors to move money elsewhere. European stock markets fell broadly. Germany's DAX dropped 1.7 percent; France's main stock index lost 3.3 percent.

Italy held its last bond auction of the year on Wednesday

and it didn't go well. Investors demanded even more money to lend to the eurozone's third-largest economy. Italy paid 6.47 percent interest to borrow €3 billion (\$3.95 billion) for five years, up from 6.30 per-

cent agreement to keep eurozone governments from piling up more debt in the future. Italy has a staggering €1.9 trillion (\$2.5 trillion) in outstanding debt, and its economy is too large for Europe to bail out like

details of the treaty negotiated in Brussels, according to one European official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential.

The new treaty aims to impose tighter rules on how much money eurozone governments can spend. EU leaders agreed to limit deficits to 0.5 percent of economic output in regular economic times and to better enforce penalties against countries whose deficits rise too high.

The treaty will not be signed until March, at the earliest. Several knotty issues must be resolved, including how budget rules contained in the new treaty will be reconciled with those in the basic treaty of the European Union, which remains unchanged. Another detail to be sorted out is whether countries signing on to the new treaty can legally rely on EU institutions, such as the European Commission and the European Court of Justice, to enforce its rules. Governments and national parliaments are also leery of transferring too much sovereignty to Brussels or their fellow euro members. □



**Demonstrators march past Christmas decorations in downtown Lisbon, on their way to the finance ministry, protesting the government's proposal to increase the work week hours Wednesday, Dec. 14 2011, in Lisbon. Portugal needed a 78 billion euro (\$103 billion) bailout earlier this year as its high debt load pushed it close to bankruptcy and the government is enacting an austerity program of pay cuts and tax hikes. Posters read "increase in the work hours is robbing in the salary."**

(AP Photo/Armando Franca)

cent just a month ago. The higher rates reflected investors' fears over the inadequacy of last week's

Greece, Ireland and Portugal have already been. European officials will meet Thursday to work out the

# US sees trans-Pacific pact as model for free trade

**MATTHEW PENNINGTON**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The United States said Wednesday it wants the ambitious trans-Pacific pact it is negotiating with eight other nations to serve as a model of how to conduct international trade.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership includes mostly medium-sized economies alongside the world's largest, the U.S. But in a move that could expand it greatly, the world's third-largest economy, Japan, last month said it wanted to enter the negotiations. The second-largest, China, is not involved.

Deputy U.S. trade representative Demetrios Marantis told a congressional hearing Wednesday the U.S. views the pact as a platform for regional integration in the Asia-Pacific,

already destination for 60 percent of U.S. goods exports. After years of delays, the U.S. recently approved free trade pacts with South Korea, Colombia and Panama. That has given a shot in the arm to the Obama administration's trade agenda as it seeks to boost a sluggish U.S. economy and fight high unemployment. It plans, ambitiously, to complete the trans-Pacific pact by next year. Marantis said the pact aims to address issues not covered in previous trade agreements, including opportunities for small- and medium-sized businesses, green growth, and "competitive distortions" caused by government providing special treatment for state-owned enterprises. The U.S. also wants it to mandate criminal penalties for theft of trade secrets and in-

clude rigorous safeguards for intellectual property. "We are creating a model for how trade should be conducted in such an im-

portant region," Marantis told the House Ways and Means subcommittee on trade. The negotiations on the

pact currently involve Chile, New Zealand, Brunei, Singapore, the U.S., Australia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Peru. □

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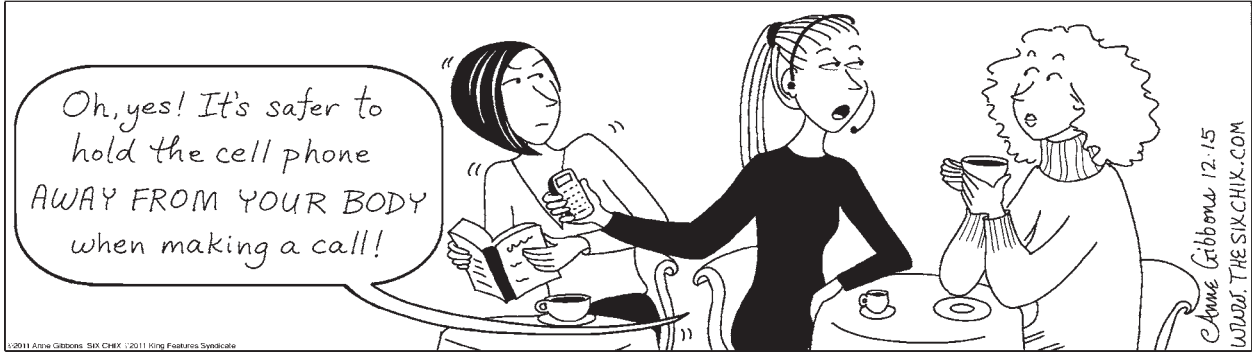
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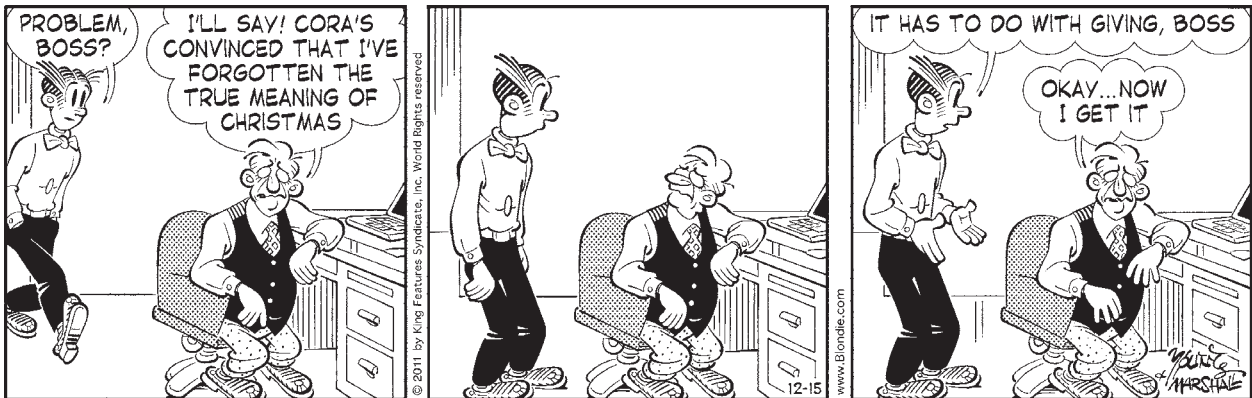
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6 Chix



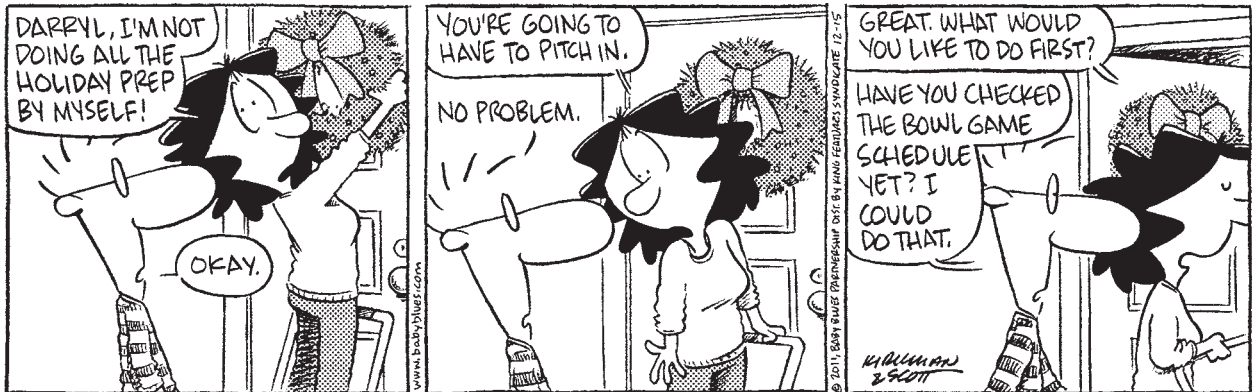
Blondie



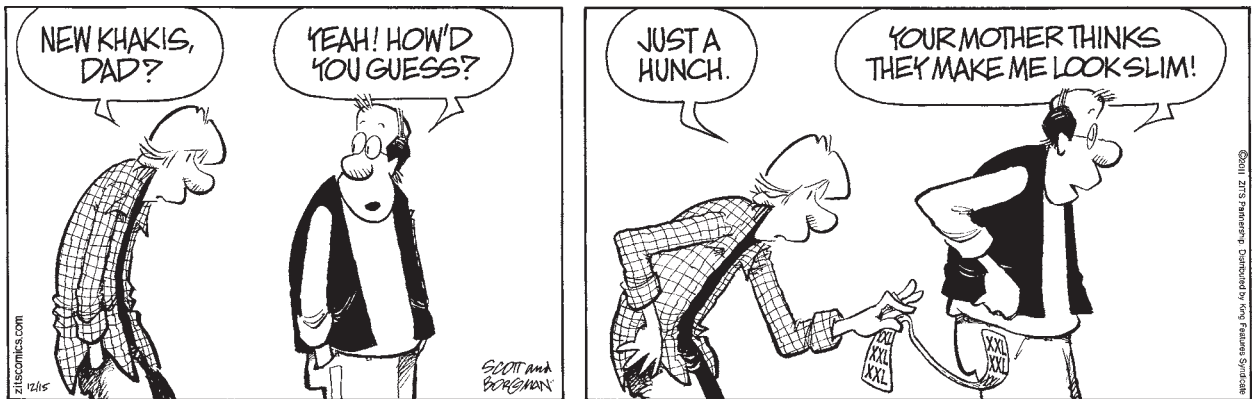
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			3	8			1	
		7					5	9
	9				2		6	
9				4		1		
1								7
		4		2				8
	7		9				3	
6		2				4		
	5			1	4			

Difficulty Level ★★

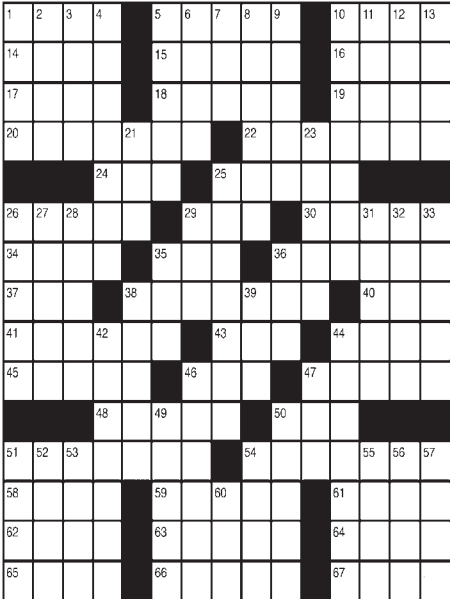
12/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

4	6	8	3	7	5	9	1	2
3	9	7	1	2	8	6	4	5
5	1	2	6	9	4	7	3	8
8	2	6	9	1	7	3	5	4
9	5	3	8	4	2	1	7	6
7	4	1	5	3	6	8	2	9
6	8	4	7	5	3	2	9	1
1	3	5	2	8	9	4	6	7
2	7	9	4	6	1	5	8	3

ACROSS

- 1 Sheep's coat
- 5 Meg and Nolan
- 10 Ticket's end
- 14 Actress Paquin
- 15 Artist's stand
- 16 Easy gait
- 17 Astonish
- 18 Plenty
- 19 Commotions
- 20 Inns
- 22 Priests' talks
- 24 Shade tree
- 25 Nonsense
- 26 Sneezing or Doc
- 29 Prohibit
- 30 Goes first
- 34 Make a salary
- 35 Actor Cruise
- 36 Soap opera
- 37 Grow gray
- 38 Gang member
- 40 Wipe dishes
- 41 Buckingham Palace's city
- 43 Afternoon social event
- 44 Orange rind
- 45 Epitome of slowness
- 46 Upper house member: abbr.
- 47 Hot ; nightcap
- 48 \_ Day; holiday in September
- 50 Actor's signal
- 51 \_ cavity; lung encasement
- 54 "...bells on \_ ring, making spirits bright..."
- 58 Huge defeat
- 59 Large pig-shaped animal
- 61 Red Muppet
- 62 Villain
- 63 Arctic or Pacific
- 64 Baseball's \_ Musical
- 65 Actor James \_
- 66 Like a letter full of juicy info
- 67 Melody



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/15/11

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

WRAP	BEAKS	ODDS
ROBE	ANNIE	TERI
IMAN	LETTER	HEAD
TEN	ALMS	HEDGE
DECAY	SIR	
STONED	HANSEL	
HANDS	AMIGO	VIM
IBIS	FLEES	WAVE
NON	FIELD	PALER
OGRESS	DELUDE	
AAH	PARKA	
DOFFS	PINK	TIC
UNATTACHED	TITO	
ACME	PRICE	UNTO
LEER	TYLER	EGOS

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12/15/11

DOWN

- 1 Laundry
- 2 Not fooled by

- 3 Burden
- 4 Portable light
- 5 Empire
- 6 Sweet potatoes
- 7 Deadly snake
- 8 Ozzie, Harriet, David or Ricky
- 9 Smooth and glossy
- 10 Jail
- 11 \_ list; paper full of chores
- 12 "Once \_ a time..."
- 13 Mrs. Truman
- 21 Leprechaun
- 23 Measuring stick
- 25 Small pet
- 26 Good buys
- 27 Covered \_; pioneer vehicle
- 28 Sports building
- 29 Go up & down
- 31 Lent a hand
- 32 Was bold
- 33 In a crafty way
- 35 2000 pounds
- 36 Body of water
- 38 Back tooth
- 51 Bow of a ship
- 52 Trademark
- 53 Dollar abroad
- 54 Slant; prejudice
- 55 Singing voice
- 56 " \_ old cowhand..."
- 57 Lengthy
- 60 Church seat





This Wednesday, June 1, 2011, file photo shows the Shakespeare and Company bookshop in Paris.  
Associated Press

## Founder of Paris bookstore Shakespeare & Co. dies

JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — George Whitman, the American bibliophile whose iconic English-language Paris bookshop, Shakespeare and Company, has been a haven for book lovers for more than half a century, died Wednesday, the store announced on its website. He was 98 years old. Whitman "died peacefully at home in the apartment above his bookshop," two months after having suffered a stroke, a posting on the store's site said. Whitman "showed incredible strength and determination up to the end" and read every day with his daughter, Sylvia, his friends and his cat and dog, it said. "Nicknamed the Don Quixote of the Latin Quarter, George will be remembered for his free spirit, his eccentricity and his generosity — all three summarized in the Yeats verses written on the walls of his open, much-visited library: 'Be not inhospitable to strangers / Lest they be angels in disguise'," it said. Nestled on the left bank of the Seine River, Shakespeare & Company is a veritable warren of books, stacked with volumes from floor to ceiling. Since its founding in 1951, the shop has been a beacon for writers and would-be writers, whom Whitman allowed to crash in the store in exchange for help around the shop. Boarders, browsers and Whitman's beloved pets could be seen snoozing among the stacks. Any visitor is welcome to curl up to read in the comfy chairs that dot the store. In an interview this year with The Associated Press, Whitman's daughter and the store's manager, Sylvia Whitman, said "My father says it's a Socialist utopia masquerading as a bookstore." □

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In this Dec. 13, 2011 photo released by Warner Bros., talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, right, welcomes Paris Jackson, daughter of the late pop star Michael Jackson during a taping of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" in Burbank, Calif. The episode will air on Thursday.

Associated Press

## Jackson daughter tells 'Ellen' about acting dreams

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Michael Jackson's daughter says she was inspired to be an actress after seeing her father in the film "Moonwalker." "My dad was in the movie 'Moonwalker' and I knew he could sing really well, but I didn't know he could act," Paris Jackson told talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, according to a transcript of the episode to air Thursday. "I saw that and I said, 'Wow, I want to be just like him.'" The film featuring Jackson's signature dance move and other videos was released in 1988. Paris said her father encouraged her and did improvisation ses-

sions to develop her skills. The 13-year-old has been cast alongside Larry King in a film based on a new children's book, "Lundon's Bridge and the Three Keys," which is in early stages of development. The Internet Movie Database, known as IMDB, shows the film is tentatively scheduled for a 2013 release, although filmmakers have not presented the teen's proposed acting contract to a Los Angeles court as required because she is a minor. Paris also talked about the lengths that her father took to protect her identity for an episode that will air on Thursday. □

# Judge says Lindsay Lohan doing well on probation



Lindsay Lohan, right, alongside her attorney Shawn Chapman Holley are seen during a progress report session at the Los Angeles Superior Court Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

**ANTHONY MCCARTNEY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A judge offered Lindsay Lohan something Wednesday that she hadn't heard from a court in nearly two years: Praise. Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner said the actress was doing well under strict new terms of her probation and urged her to keep up the good work. The starlet has completed 12 days at the county

morgue and five therapy sessions since Nov. 2, when she was sentenced to a strict routine of community service and counseling after her latest probation violation. "You're doing well and I'd like to see it continue," Sautner said during a 10-minute status hearing. She also offered Lohan an incentive to succeed, saying the actress could take leisure trips outside California after she completes

a dozen days of morgue work a month.

The actress had permission from her probation officer to take a trip to Hawaii to celebrate her sister's birthday. She returned just hours before the hearing.

Lohan, 25, has drawn the repeated ire of judges for failing to complete counseling sessions and community service assignments on time. Sautner made clear Wednesday that she believes Lohan's new schedule — which requires the model and actress to appear in court monthly until March — is the reason for the turnaround.

The judge even hinted that Lohan might end her supervised probation early if she works harder.

"Do more days a month and we can end this in February, possibly," Sautner said.

The judge said Lohan should keep reporting to court in person to make sure she remains on track.

"I think she likes to come see me," Sautner joked.

"I think that's her motivation."

Lohan appeared in court wearing brown slacks and a beige cardigan and found a smaller crowd of reporters than has chronicled the actress' court scoldings since she missed a hearing in May 2010.

The last time she appeared in court without a probation compliance issue on the agenda was February 2010.

Judges repeatedly sent her to jail and rehab since then, and Sautner said last month she was giving Lohan one final chance to end the court spectacle.

The actress remains on probation for a 2007 drunken driving case and a misdemeanor grand theft case filed after she took a \$2,500 necklace without permission from a store.

Her appearance Wednesday came days before a Playboy issue featuring Lohan in a mostly nude pictorial hits newsstands. □

## Elizabeth Taylor's jewelry sells for \$115 million

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Elizabeth Taylor's jewelry collection sold for a record-setting \$115 million — including more than \$11.8 million for a pearl necklace and more than \$8.8 million for a diamond ring given to her by Richard Burton — at a Christie's auction Tuesday night of memorabilia amassed by the late actress. The pearl, diamond and ruby necklace, known as "La Peregrina," reached the world record price of \$11,842,500. It had been estimated to sell for \$2 million to \$3 million. The price surpassed the previous auction record for a pearl, set in 2007 with the sale of The Baroda Pearls for \$7,096,000. Burton bought the necklace at auction in 1969 for Taylor for \$37,000.

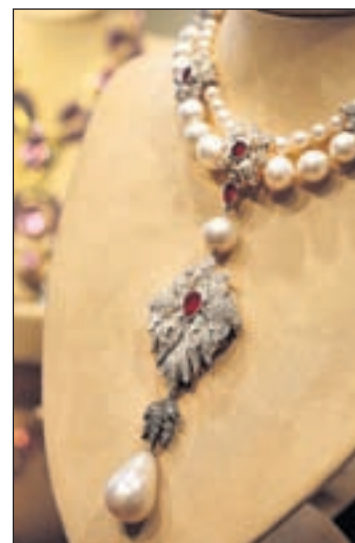
Taylor, a screen goddess who also starred in classics such as "Giant," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," died in Los Angeles in March at age 79.

A jewelry lover, she had pieces from some of the most famous names in the jewelry world, including Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and Chopard, in her collection. The 33.19-carat diamond ring sold for \$8,818,500. It had been estimated to sell for \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million. The ring was purchased by a private buyer from Asia, according to a Christie's spokesman. The collection of Taylor's necklaces, earrings, pendants and rings and other gems went on sale Tuesday

night in New York.

Among the other high-profile items was a diamond bracelet given to the "National Velvet" and "Cleopatra" actress by singer Michael Jackson, with an estimated sale price of \$30,000 to \$50,000. It sold for \$194,500. All prices include the buyer's premium. Other sales of Taylor's art, clothing and memorabilia will be held later in the week. Part of the proceeds will go to The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, which she established in 1991 to help people living with AIDS.

Taylor's collection of impressionist and modern art is scheduled to go on sale at Christie's in London in February. □



This Sept. 1, 2001, file photo shows Elizabeth Taylor's "La Peregrina," an early 16th century pearl, ruby and diamond necklace by Cartier, that was gift from Richard Burton to Elizabeth Taylor, at Christie's, in New York.

Associated Press



## Eagles, Tom Petty to perform at 2012 New Orleans Jazz Fest

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — The Eagles, Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, the Foo Fighters and John Mayer are among the headliners to perform at next year's New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

It will be the first year the Eagles and Tom Petty play Jazz Fest, the outdoor music event that features hundreds of Louisiana artists in such genres as jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues, Cajun and zydeco. The festival is accented by national acts that in 2012 will include the Zac Brown Band, Herbie Hancock, My Morning Jacket, Bonnie Raitt, Al Green, Jill Scott and Florence & the Machine.

In all, hundreds of acts will perform on roughly a dozen stages over two weekends from April 27 through May 6. Roughly 85 percent of the lineup is from Louisiana, including New Orleans soul

singer Irma Thomas, singer-pianist Allen Toussaint and jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain.

"This festival really offers the best of both worlds," said Quint Davis, the festival's producer.

"The heart and soul of the festival is all the Louisiana artists, but added to that is the very best of all these other genres."

Next year's Jazz Fest will include a 50th anniversary celebration of Preservation Hall, the French Quarter venue founded in 1961 to protect and honor New Orleans jazz. It's also home to the world-renowned Preservation Hall Jazz Band. The celebration will include a concert the second weekend of the festival, Davis said. Performers for the event will be released next year, he said.

Tickets for the 2012 festival go on sale Wednesday. □

## Orson Welles' 'Citizen Kane' Oscar to be auctioned

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Academy Award Orson Welles won for writing the screenplay for the classic film "Citizen Kane" will be sold to the highest bidder. Auctioneer Nate D. Sanders plans to sell the Oscar statuette on Dec. 20.

Welles also earned nominations for acting in and directing the 1941 film.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences declined to comment Tuesday on the planned auction. Since 1950, it has required Oscar winners to promise they will not sell their statuette before offering it back to the academy



This 1942 file photo shows Orson Welles.

Associated Press

for \$1.

Welles died at age 70 in 1985. □

## 'Law & Order' vet Meloni to join 'True Blood' cast

**NEW YORK (AP)** — HBO says "Law and Order" veteran Chris Meloni will be sinking his teeth into a role on vampire drama "True Blood."

The network confirmed Wednesday that Meloni will be joining the popular

series as an ancient, powerful vampire who controls the fate of the show's major characters. The series' fifth season is expected to air next summer. Its stars include Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer. □



In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Jared Harris portraying Professor James Moriarty, left, and Robert Downey Jr., portraying Sherlock Holmes, are shown in a scene from "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows."

Associated Press

## Downey meets his Moriarty match in 'Holmes' sequel

**DAVID GERMAIN**

**AP Movie Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Professor James Moriarty has taken a lot of heat the last century for crimes he didn't commit.

The archrival of Sherlock Holmes, who called his nemesis the "Napoleon of crime," appeared in only two of Arthur Conan Doyle's tales about the great detective.

Yet in post-Doyle fiction about Holmes and in many movies, including Robert Downey Jr.'s sequel "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," Moriarty has loomed as the grandfather of all super-villains, the forerunner to Ernst Blofeld and many more James Bond baddies, along with legions of heavies that make life difficult for comic-book superheroes.

"I can't think of a super-villain in a sort of obvious commercial sense before Moriarty in literature," said Guy Ritchie, who directed 2009's "Sherlock Holmes" and the sequel. "He really has become the most famous villain in literature, for not doing a great deal, either, by the way. But it is interesting how he's carried so much momentum. He's an elusive character, real-

ly, and he gained his equity as much by being elusive as for being potent."

That elusive presence of Moriarty as a diabolical puppet-master of worldwide chaos, an evil doppelganger with an intellect possibly surpassing that of Holmes, was touched on at the end of Downey's "Sherlock Holmes" two years ago.

The new movie, which opens Friday in North America, unleashes Moriarty in all his malice, played with quiet, chilling detachment by Jared Harris.

"You could say that Blofeld was a version of Moriarty in that he was created for the same reason by Ian Fleming," Harris said.

"You have Superman, you have to create a Lex Luthor or you have to have a kryptonite. Otherwise, there's no jeopardy in your story. You have someone who's invulnerable, who never loses.

After a while, you get fed up with the stories. ...

"He's there for the reason that the audience would feel like somewhere out there lurking is this opponent for this character they've come to love, and they start worrying for the future of that character.

Will he be all right? Will he finally meet this person? What's going to happen?" What happens in "A Game of Shadows" is that Holmes has come to obsess over the shadowy Moriarty and what he's up to.

Downey's Holmes, aided by loyal but bickering buddy Watson (Jude Law), uncovers a scheme by the professor that could launch a World War I-style global conflict years earlier, in the late 1800s.

Ritchie is not exactly known for restraint in his crime romps, yet when it came to re-creating Moriarty, he settled on the low-key Harris, best known for a recurring role in "Mad Men."

Harris brings cool menace to Moriarty,

whose previous screen incarnations range from a holographic character on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" to Laurence Olivier as a subconscious boogeyman for Holmes as the detective undergoes psychotherapy with Sigmund Freud in "The Seven-Percent Solution."

"How do you come back and reclaim the original gangster status of Moriarty?" Downey said. "For me, it was the subtlety and the implied threat." □



# Honeymoons in space



MAUREEN DOWD  
© 2011 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** – By the time he was 16, Newt Gingrich was sure of two things. He would marry his high school geometry teacher. And he would save Western civilization. Gingrich has moved on to younger wives. But he’s still obsessed with numbers and rescuing the planet. In 1994, he described himself to me as “a conservative futurist,” which seems like an oxymoron. The man George Will once called a “a cherub with a chip on his shoulder” finds the future simultaneously apocalyptic and massively fun. You can picture President Newt Gingrich on his first day in the Oval Office, emanating an impish doomsday aura of “Let’s see what happens if we press this button!” In his own feverish, gee-whiz imagination, Newt is both the arsonist and the fireman. When I covered Gingrich during his ‘90s revolution, he was captivated by Alvin Toffler’s “The Third Wave” and the “Star Wars” trilogy; he was hanging around with Arianna Huffington, author of “The Fourth Instinct”; he preached a Contract With America that contained eight reforms and 10 proposed laws; he proselytized five “new” aims – new hope, new dialogue, new access, new partnership and a new team – and his reading list included “The Book of Five Rings: The Classic Guide to Strategy” by a 17th-century Samurai warrior and martial-arts master named Miyamoto Musashi. Speaker Gingrich told me that he became a historian because he read Isaac Asimov’s seven-volume Foundation series about a mathematician and psychohistorian from Planet Trantor “who looked at long sweeps of history and tried to understand probable patterns of behavior.” “I found it a very believable and understandable way of thinking about data,” he said. (Feel free to supply your own joke about Psycho Historians.) I asked the speaker if he believed in space aliens. “It’s mathematically plausible,” he replied, joking that he hoped a friend who had written about space-traveling pachyderms was prescient, to speed up Republican colonization of outer space. In his 1984 book, “Window of Opportunity,” Gingrich cheerlead for “a permanent lunar colony to exploit the moon’s resources” and honeymoons on the moon, blaming Teddy Kennedy, Jimmy Carter and “the welfare state” for our failure to build Hiltons and Marriotts in the Milky Way. In his 1995 book “To Renew Amer-

ica” – the books stay largely the same, though the two wives fondly referenced change – Gingrich wrote about six challenges, including putting scientists and adventurers “back into the business of exploration and discovery.” He spiced up the space honeymoon idea: “Imagine weightlessness and its effects and you will understand some of the attraction.” Gingrich is a historian who treats the future as history, even though it’s unknowable. He went from backbench bomb-thrower to Newt Skywalker, talking “byte cities,” “brain lords” and “cyberpolitics.” At a talk I attended here in 1995 called “From Virtuality to Reality,” the speaker declared: “In a sense, virtuality at the mental level is something I think you’d find in most leadership over historical periods.” Sounding Newt Age-y, he mused: “We are not at a new place. It is just becoming harder and harder and harder to avoid the place we are.” Gingrich, who had gotten to know Alvin and Heidi Toffler in the ‘70s when he was a history teacher at West Georgia College, asked the futurists to advise him on how to recast Congress for a “third wave” information society – following the first agricultural wave and the second industrial wave. Certainly, Gingrich, the self-styled destroyer and savior of civilization, must have been drawn to Toffler’s contention in “The Third Wave” that visionaries must engage in the “mind-staggering” project of bulldozing government and “building a new civilization on the wreckage of the old.” Conceding that some would find it “seditious,” Toffler informed the founders in an imaginary letter that their system of government was “increasingly, if inadvertently, oppressive and dangerous to our welfare.” Gingrich agreed in 1995 that we might have to “rethink our Constitution” – something that wouldn’t go over well with originalists. The man who wishes to be our leader implementing Lean Six Sigma might shy away from Toffler’s main thesis, that we were moving toward a basically leaderless society where information was available to everyone, so everyone could make their own decisions. “Someday,” Toffler wrote, “future historians may look back on voting and the search for majorities as an archaic ritual engaged in by communicational primitives.” And what about Toffler’s prediction that those (like Gingrich) who resist the end of the nuclear family and the spread of gay parenting, gay rights, women’s rights and abortion access as variegated families set up shop in “electronic cottages” would just add to the pain of inevitable transition to a “de-mas-sified society”? Torn between the virtual and the virtue-crats, Gingrich this week endorsed the “marriage pledge” of an evangelical group in Iowa opposing same-sex marriage and abortion and vowed fidelity to Callista. Hasn’t he taken that vow and broken it twice before? Sometimes you go with “Future Shock.” Sometimes you go with present schlock. □



EU MEDICINE

# Newt, Mitt, Bibi and Vladimir



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
© 2011 New York Times

I have a simple motto when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: I love both Israelis and Palestinians, but God save me from some of their U.S. friends – those who want to love them to death, literally. That thought came to mind last week when Newt Gingrich took the Republican competition to grovel for Jewish votes – by outloving Israel – to a new low by suggesting that the Palestinians are an “invented” people and not a real nation entitled to a state. This was supposed to show that Newt loves Israel more than Mitt Romney, who only told the Israeli newspaper Israel Hayom that he would move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem because “I don’t seek to take actions independent of what our allies think is best, and if Israel’s leaders thought that a move of that nature would be helpful to their efforts, then that’s something I’ll be inclined to do. ... I don’t think America should play the role of the leader of the peace process. Instead, we should stand by our ally.” That’s right. America’s role is to just applaud whatever Israel does, serve as its ATM and shut up. We have no interests of our own. And this guy’s running for president? As for Newt, well, let’s see: If the 2.5 million West Bank Palestinians are not a real people entitled to their

own state, that must mean Israel is entitled to permanently occupy the West Bank and that must mean – as far as Newt is concerned – that Israel’s choices are: 1) to permanently deprive the West Bank Palestinians of Israeli citizenship and put Israel on the road to apartheid; 2) to evict the West Bank Palestinians through ethnic cleansing and put Israel on the road to the International Criminal Court in the Hague; or 3) to treat the Palestinians in the West Bank as citizens, just like Israeli Arabs, and lay the foundation for Israel to become a binational state. And this is called being “pro-Israel”? I’d never claim to speak for U.S. Jews, but I’m certain there are many out there like me, who strongly believe in the right of the Jewish people to a state, who understand that Israel lives in a dangerous neighborhood yet remains a democracy, but who are deeply worried about where Israel is going today. My guess is we’re the minority when it comes to secular U.S. Jews. We still care. Many other Jews are just drifting away. I sure hope that Israel’s Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, understands that the standing ovation he got in Congress this year was not for his politics. That ovation was bought and paid for by the Israel lobby. The real test is what would happen if Bibi tried to speak at, let’s say, the University of Wisconsin. My guess is that many students would boycott him and many Jewish students would stay away, not because they are hostile but because they are confused. It confuses them to read that Israel’s foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who met with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia last Wednesday, was quoted as saying that the recent Russian elections were “absolutely fair, free and democratic.” Yes, those elections – the ones that brought thousands of Russian democrats into the streets to protest the fraud. Israel’s foreign minister sided with Putin. It confuses them to read that right-wing Jewish settlers attacked an Is-

raeli army base on Tuesday in the West Bank, stoning Israeli soldiers in retaliation for the army removing “illegal” settlements that Jewish extremists establish wherever they want. It confuses them to read, as the New Israel Fund reports on its website, that “more than 10 years ago, the ultra-Orthodox community asked Israel’s public bus company, Egged, to provide segregated buses in their neighborhoods. By early 2009, more than 55 such lines were operating around Israel. Typically, women are required to enter through the bus back doors and sit in the back of the bus, as well as ‘dress modestly.’” It confuses them to read a Financial Times article from Israel on Monday, that said: “In recent weeks, the country has been consumed by an anguished debate over a series of new laws and proposals that many fear are designed to stifle dissent, weaken minority rights, restrict freedom of speech and emasculate the judiciary. They include a law that in effect allows Israeli communities to exclude Arab families; another that imposes penalties on Israelis advocating a boycott of products made in West Bank Jewish settlements; and proposals that would subject the supreme court to greater political oversight.” And it confuses them to read Gideon Levy, a powerful liberal voice, writing in Haaretz, the Israeli daily, this week that “anyone who says this is a matter of a few inconsequential laws is leading others astray. ... What we are witnessing is w-a-r. This fall a culture war, no less, broke out in Israel, and it is being waged on many more, and deeper, fronts than are apparent. It is not only the government, as important as that is, that hangs in the balance, but also the very character of the state.” So while Newt is cynically asking who are the Palestinians, he doesn’t even know that more than a few Israelis are asking, “Who are we?” □



# Sale of bank with Hezbollah ties reveals funding sources

JO BECKER

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**BEIRUT, Lebanon** – Last February, the Obama administration accused one of Lebanon's famously secretive banks of laundering money for an international cocaine ring with ties to the Shiite militant group Hezbollah.

long believed that Hezbollah is a passive beneficiary of contributions from loyalists abroad involved in drug trafficking and a grab bag of other criminal enterprises, intelligence from several countries points to the direct involvement of high-level Hezbollah officials in the South American

buckles under international sanctions over its nuclear program and Syria's government battles rising popular unrest.

Yet, if anything, Hezbollah's financial needs have grown alongside its increasing legitimacy here, as it seeks to rebuild after its 2006 war with Israel and expand its

the world.

"The ability of terror groups like Hezbollah to tap into the worldwide criminal funding streams is the new post-9/11 challenge," said Derek Maltz, the Drug Enforcement Administration official who oversaw the agency's investigation into the Lebanese Canadian Bank.

In that inquiry, U.S. Treasury officials said senior bank managers had assisted a handful of account holders in running a scheme to wash drug money by mixing it with the proceeds of used cars bought in the United States and sold in Africa. A cut of the profits, officials said, went to Hezbollah, a link the organization disputes.

The officials have refused to disclose their evidence for that allegation. But the outlines of a broader laundering network, and the degree to which Hezbollah's business had come to suffuse the bank's operations, emerged in recent months as the bank's untainted assets were being sold, with U.S. blessings, to a Beirut-based partner of the French banking giant

their classic signs of money laundering.

In all, hundreds of millions of dollars a year sloshed through the accounts, held mainly by Shiite Muslim businessmen in the drug-smuggling nations of West Africa, many of them known Hezbollah supporters, trading in everything from rough-cut diamonds to cosmetics and frozen chicken, according to people with knowledge of the matter in the U.S. and Europe. The companies appeared to be serving as fronts for Hezbollah to move all sorts of dubious funds, on its own behalf or for others. The system allowed Hezbollah to hide not only the sources of its wealth, but also its involvement in a range of business enterprises. One case involved perhaps the richest land deal in Lebanon's history, the \$240 million purchase late last year of more than 740 pristine acres overlooking the Mediterranean in the religiously diverse Chouf region. The seller was a jet-set Christian jeweler, Robert Mouawad, whose clientele runs from Saudi royalty to Hollywood royalty. The buyer, at least on paper, was a Shiite diamond dealer, Nazem Said Ahmad.

In fact, according to people knowledgeable about Beirut real estate, the development corporation's major investor was a relative of a former Hezbollah commander, Ali Tajeddine. The investor, in turn, received money that flowed through the bank from companies the U.S. has since designated as Hezbollah fronts, and from dealers implicated in the trade in so-called conflict diamonds and minerals, the Americans and Europeans with knowledge of the matter said. The Lebanese Canadian Bank provided a crucial loan.

And the deal fit a pattern, highly controversial in this religiously combustible land, in which businesses tied to Hezbollah have been buying up militarily strategic pieces of property in largely Christian areas, helping the movement quietly fortify its geopolitical hegemony. □



**The Societe Generale de Banque au Liban, which bought the assets of the Lebanese Canadian Bank in Beirut. U.S. federal prosecutors in Virginia announced the indictment of a man at the center of the Lebanese Canadian Bank's case, charging that he had trafficked drugs and laundered money.**

(Ed Ou/The New York Times)

Now, in the wake of the bank's exposure and arranged sale, its ledgers have been opened to reveal deeper secrets: a glimpse at the clandestine methods that Hezbollah – a terrorist organization in American eyes that has evolved into Lebanon's pre-eminent military and political power – uses to finance its operations. The books offer evidence of an intricate global money-laundering apparatus that, with the bank as its hub, appeared to let Hezbollah move huge sums of money into the legitimate financial system, despite sanctions aimed at cutting off its economic lifeblood.

At the same time, the investigation that led the United States to the bank, the Lebanese Canadian Bank, provides new insights into the murky sources of Hezbollah's money. While law enforcement agencies around the world have

cocaine trade.

One agent involved in the investigation compared Hezbollah to the Mafia, saying, "They operate like the Gambinos on steroids." On Tuesday, federal prosecutors in Virginia announced the indictment of the man at the center of the Lebanese Canadian Bank case, charging that he had trafficked drugs and laundered money not only for Colombian cartels, but also for the murderous Mexican gang Los Zetas.

The revelations about Hezbollah and the Lebanese Canadian Bank reflect the changing political and military dynamics of Lebanon and the Middle East. American intelligence analysts believe that for years Hezbollah received as much as \$200 million annually from its primary patron, Iran, along with additional aid from Syria. But that support has diminished, the analysts say, as Iran's economy



**Antoun Sehnaoui, chairman of the Societe Generale de Banque au Liban, which bought the assets of the Lebanese Canadian Bank, in Beirut. U.S. federal prosecutors in Virginia announced the indictment of a man at the center of the Lebanese Canadian Bank's case, charging that he had trafficked drugs and laundered money.**

(Ed Ou/The New York Times)

portfolio of political and social service activities. The result, analysts believe, has been a deeper reliance on criminal enterprises – especially the South American cocaine trade – and on a mechanism to move its ill-gotten cash around

Societe Generale.

Of course, a money-laundering operation does not just come out and identify itself. But auditors brought in to scrub the books discovered nearly 200 accounts that were suspicious for their links to Hezbollah and